Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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Arab-Israeli Talks

Developments in Israeli-Palestinian Talks Reported

Palestinian Paper on Refugees Presented

TA1305162693 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 13 May 93 pp 1, 7

[Text] Oslo— In a Palestinian position paper presented yesterday at the third session of the working group on refugees, the Palestinian delegation reaffirmed the commitment of the Palestinian people and their sole legitimate representative, the PLO, to the Middle East peace process launched in Madrid 18 months ago. The delegation noted the lack of any substantive progress since that time because of the intransigent Israeli stance.

The delegation added that Israel has placed new obstacles to that process, including banishing more than 400 Palestinians and the closing the occupied Palestinian territories.

The Palestinian delegation called for the PLO's direct and full participation in the bilateral and multilateral tracks of the peace process and for rectifying Palestinian representation by having Palestinians from Jerusalem participate in both tracks and diaspora Palestinians participate in the bilateral track. The delegation also called for the formation of two working groups—one on Jerusalem and another one on human rights.

The Palestinian delegation stressed that the Palestinian refugee issue is the core of the Palestinian problem. It called on the international community to pressure Israel so that it will comply with the provisions and articles of UN Resolution 194, which among other things stipulated the Palestinian refugees' right of return. The delegation noted that the rights provided in this resolution cannot be subject to negotiations because they concern every Palestinian refugee. It expressed its readiness, however, to consider the ways and means of implementing this resolution on the basis of international legitimacy.

'Ashrawi Outlines 'Latest' Working Paper

TA1305141093 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 13 May 93 pp 1, 15

[By Da'ud Kuttab]

[Text] Jerusalem—In a telephone contact with AL-QUDS, Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi said that despite the optimistic U.S. statements, the gap between the Israeli and Palestinian positions is wide and it will be difficult to bridge it without flexibility in the Israeli position.

Regarding the latest Palestinian working paper, 'Ashrawi revealed that it includes the following points:

—Affirms the terms of reference of the talks.

—Links the transitional and final stages.

—Affirms commitment to the original timetable. It is common knowledge that the invitation to the Madrid talks set the end of negotiations over the transitional stage to be one year after the convocation of the peace conference in the Spanish capital.

—Calls for elections to a Palestinian transitional council under international supervision.

—Considers the transitional stage's entity as a single, integral, and indivisible unit.

—Clarifies the interim government's legislative, judicial, and executive powers.

Dr. 'Ashrawi explained that the real test of Israeli intentions is in the occupied territories, especially with regard to carrying out the promises on lifting the siege, releasing the detainees, and repatriating the deportees.

On the Israeli working method, 'Ashrawi said that the Israelis avoid making any commitment. If they are pressured into making a commitment, they try as much as possible not to implement it. When pressure on them continues they procrastinate until the last moment, then they implement a minimal part of the commitment, which deprives it of its substance.

'Ashrawi 'Ruled Out' Agreement

JN1305070593 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0415 GMT 13 May 93

[Text] Washington—On the Palestinian track, Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, spokeswoman for the Palestinian delegation to the Arab-Israeli peace talks, has ruled out a possible agreement with the Israelis on a joint declaration of principles during the current round of talks.

In a radio interview, 'Ashrawi added that the Palestinian delegation submitted a draft joint statement of principles to the Israelis, noting that the gap is still wide between the Palestinian and Israeli positions. 'Ashrawi went on to say that the Israeli side is merely changing the terms it is using with regard to jurisdiction over territory. She maintained that the Palestinian delegation is currently discussing basic issues pertaining to self-rule, the terms of reference for the peace process, as well as issues pertaining to legislation, elections, and international supervision of the elections.

In a separate development, Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz has stated that the Israeli proposal submitted to the Lebanese delegation to the peace talks is somewhat vague.

In a statement to the newspaper AL-AHRAM to be published in today's edition, Buwayz added that the Lebanese delegation [in its reply document] asked for clarifications for the incomplete ideas which need to be defined. The delegation also deleted the ideas deemed unacceptable from the Israeli proposal and underscored the basic ideas which should have been incorporated into this proposal, Buwayz noted.

Buwayz indicated that Lebanon is demanding complete Israeli withdrawal from Lebanese territory, and that

Israel subscribe to this principle. He added: Once Israel makes a declaration to this effect, Lebanon will then be willing to discuss the formation of a military committee, whose task will be to schedule withdrawal. When the military committee begins its work, the political committee will also begin its work to discuss the overall issue; namely, the Arab-Israeli conflict, to achieve peace.

Buwayz maintained that the substantive issue between Lebanon and Israel, which primarily concerns a settlement of the situation in southern Lebanon, lies in the fact that Lebanon is demanding that withdrawal from southern Lebanon in accordance with Resolution 425 be separated from the peace process, which is based on Security Council Resolution 242.

'More Credible' Future Talks Desired

TA1305153293 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 13 May 93

[Text] Another Israeli-Palestinian meeting has just ended in Washington, and again without any outcome. The meeting ended the ninth round of talks and confirmed the concern of Israeli and American diplomats that a joint declaration of principles would not be achieved in this round. Qeren Neubach reports from Washington:

The Palestinians met the Israelis about 30 minutes ago and made generalized summation comments on this round of talks, but they did not refer even a single time to the U.S. compromise document presented last night. The Palestinians did not announce officially their rejection of the U.S. proposal, but from their responses to the media, and Arab news agency reports, the impression is gained that that is the real situation. It appears that this round is ending not only without agreement, but without any other achievement that can be pointed to. One can feel the deep disappointment among the Israelis and the Palestinians, and the finger is pointed, perhaps more than anywhere else, at the U.S. Administration, which seems to have failed in its mediation effort this time.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el Hebrew at 1500 GMT on 13 May reports: "Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, the head of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks, said that to his regret no agreement had been reached with Israel on a joint declaration of principles. He was speaking after the Palestinians' meeting with the Israeli negotiators.

["Our correspondent in Washington Arye Golan reports that although 'Abd-al-Shafi expressed disappointment with the failure to reach agreement, he noted that the Palestinians were committed to the peace process, adding that they hoped that in future the process would become what 'Abd-al-Shafi termed as more credible."]

'Abd-al-Shafi: No Agreement Reached

JN1305162293 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1600 GMT 13 May 93

[Text] Palestinians have said they had ended the final meeting of the current round of peace talks with Israel without reaching agreement on a statement of principles on Palestinian self-rule.

Chief Palestinian negotiator Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi told reporters that he regretted to say that they did not reach agreement that permits a declaration about agreed principles. He added that he wanted to emphasize that Palestinians remain committed to the peace process, and they hope that this peace process will acquire more credibility that will permit progress in the future.

Earlier today, Israelis and Palestinians met in Washington and discussed a U.S. paper which tries to bridge differences between them on Palestinian self-rule.

The information chief of the Palestine Liberation Organization, PLO, said in Tunis that the draft was not a compromise but a remake of Israeli proposals and could not be discussed.

PLO Rejects U.S. Proposal

JN1305173293 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1708 GMT 13 May 93

[Text] The PLO has rejected the document submitted by Washington yesterday to Israeli and Palestinian negotiators regarding autonomy in the occupied Palestinian territories.

Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, member of the PLO Executive Committee, has stated that the U.S. document is not a compromise solution but a copy of the Israeli plan. He added that this document is a dangerous initiative since it shows that the United States, which sponsors the negotiations, is biased toward Israel after Washington had pledged to adopt an unbiased stand. 'Abd-Rabbuh said that most of the diplomatic operations are now endangered. He explained that the U.S. document seeks to bypass UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, which form the basis of the negotiations, to avoid discussing the status of East Jerusalem and complete Israeli withdrawal from the territories occupied in 1967.

At the same time, 'Abd-Rabbuh emphasized the Palestinians' eagerness to pursue the negotiations with Israel to reach agreement on a joint declaration of principles regarding Palestinian autonomy, on the condition that such a document conforms with UN resolutions.

'Abd-al-Shafi: Proposal Not Rejected

JN1305194493 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 13 May 93

[Text] Palestinian sources report that the final session of the ninth round of the Palestinian-Israeli peace talks has ended without agreement on a joint declaration regarding the guidelines of Palestinian self-rule.

Chief Palestinian delegate Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi told reporters the two sides have failed to bridge their viewpoints sufficiently to allow them to issue a declaration of principles. He reiterated, however, that the Palestinians remain committed to the peace process, and he expressed hope that it will grow more credible and make headway in the future. 'Abd-al-Shafi indicated that the Palestinians have not rejected the American document, which he described as a report on the course of the talks.

Palestinians are now discussing the U.S. document with American officials, he noted.

Agreement Said 'Still Possible'

JN1405071893 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 0400 GMT 14 May 93

[Text] The ninth round of Arab-Israeli peace negotiations ended in Washington last night. During a news conference he held at the end of this round, Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian delegation, said that an agreement between the Palestinians and Israel on a declaration of principles is still possible. He said that such an agreement could be centered on a document presented by the United States to the two delegations last Wednesday, 12 May. This document represents some sort of a report on progress achieved so far. Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi said his delegation did not reject the text of the document, adding that the delegation presented the Americans with remarks on this document. He said that these remarks were then conveyed to the Israeli side. If Israel accepts these remarks, it would be possible to reach an agreement within the framework of a U.S.-Israeli-Palestinian meeting at the U.S. Department of State.

Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, head of the Syrian delegation, said discussions during this round were serious. However, he added, we do not come to Washington to hold serious discussions but to achieve positive results.

Itamar Rabinovich, head of the Israeli delegation to the negotiations with Syria, said that although no agreements were reached, the negotiations were characterized by many encouraging aspects.

Meanwhile, Suhayl Shammas, head of the Lebanese delegation, emphasized the need for the Israeli forces to withdraw from all the territories they occupy in southern Lebanon.

Delegates Sum Up 9th Round

TA1305195593 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 13 May 93

[Excerpts] Another round of peace talks ended this evening in Washington without achieving any results. The Israeli and Palestinian delegations failed to reach agreement on a joint declaration of principles and the intensive efforts by U.S. officials to bridge the gaps between the two parties also ended in failure. The Israeli delegation will leave Washington on its way back to Israel tonight. Our correspondent Ya'ir Stern reports from Washington.

[Begin recording] [Stern] Good evening from Washington. The latest round of the peace talks has ended in failure. The last minute effort by the United States to formulate a document that would be acceptable both to the Israelis and the Palestinians was rejected by the latter. The U.S. proposal was not rejected because of what it included, but rather because of what was lacking. The document fails to address the Palestinian demands regarding the status of Jerusalem and the freezing of Israeli settlement activity. The Palestinians felt they could not go back home with an overly comprehensive statement.

[Chief Palestinian negotiator Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, in English] And I regret to say that we did not reach an agreement that permits declaration about agreed principles, and so we end this round without reaching this hoped-for agreement.

[Stern, in English] Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi, did you reject the American paper?

['Abd-al-Shafi, in English] No, we did not reject it. We did not. We received this paper last night and we have formulated a position.

[Stern] The Israeli delegation stayed at the State Department until late last night in order to receive the U.S. proposal and to forward its contents to Prime Minister Rabin in Jerusalem. The Palestinians did not even bother to show up for the meeting with the Americans. [passage omitted]

In the meeting held today to sum up the talks between the Israelis and the Palestinian delegation, which showed up in a reduced form, Elyaqim Rubinstein, the head of the Israeli delegation, expressed regret over the fact that no real achievements were made in the talks. Rubinstein said, however, that he hoped that the coming rounds of talks would reverse this situation.

[Rubinstein] We will go on with our job, which continues. We are sorry that not every possibility was exhausted. Had the committees not been suspended and so much time lost in this regard, a lot more could have definitely been done. Nevertheless, we did some work and it would be a pity if the message was only pessimistic. On the contrary, things should be presented as they really are.

[Stern] The heads of all the Arab delegations are currently holding a news conference in Washington, in which they will present a unified front and describe the entire round of talks as a failure. They do not know yet if they will attend the next round of talks in June and assert that they will leave the decision up to the Arab foreign ministers.

The heads of the Israeli delegations will also hold a news conference later tonight, and then meet with Assistant Secretary of State Edward Djerejian in order to sum up this round of talks. The Israeli delegation is returning to Israel tonight. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Syrian Delegate Comments on U.S. Proposal

JN1305181593 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1655 GMT 13 May 93

[Text] Washington, 13 May (SANA)—The Arab delegations to the peace talks held their 11th and final meeting with the Israeli side within the current ninth round of talks, the outcome of which has been described by Syrian chief delegate Muwaffaq al-'Allaf as disappointing.

In a statement prior to today's meeting, al-'Allaf said that the results have been disappointing so far, and that he does not believe that there is any chance of achieving a breakthrough on this last day.

Al-'Allaf added: However, our commitment to the peace process is stronger than our disappointment. We joined the peace process to make peace. We will continue our efforts to achieve this objective until we lose every hope of attaining it. However, we have not reached that stage yet.

Al-'Allaf was asked about his impression following the direct U.S. intervention yesterday on the Palestinian-Israeli track of the talks to bridge the gap between the two sides. He said: The cosponsors declared that they will try to bridge the differences between the concerned parties. However, it is worth noting that any effort in this regard must be based on respect for UN resolutions and the terms of reference upon which the peace process is based.

Al-'Allaf added that he has not be acquainted with the details of yesterday's document submitted by the United States to the Palestinian and Israeli delegations.

He continued that if what the Americans have presented is consistent with the terms of reference and the objectives of the peace process, this would be a positive development on which hopes of success are pinned. However, al-'Allaf noted, if it is something else, and if it is only an attempt to prolong a certain situation, then I do not believe that it will solve anything.

In response to a question on whether he believes that there should be similar U.S. intervention on the Syrian-Israeli track, al-'Allaf said that if the talks on this track arrive at a stage which requires intervention by the U.S. and Russian cosponsors to help boost the talks, then they should work to make the side whose stand contravenes the UN resolutions and the bases of the peace process change its stand.

He added that this is the only way which would give the peace process a chance of advancing.

Arab Delegates Cited on 9th Round, U.S. Proposal

JN1305190993 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 13 May 93

[Kassab Samawi report from Washington, including remarks by Palestinian spokeswoman Hanan 'Ashrawi and chief delegate Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, Syrian chief delegate Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, and Lebanese delegate Suhayl Shammas; date not given—passages within quotation marks are recorded]

[Text] Arab negotiators have charged that Israel does not seem to be interested in making a go of the peace talks, and spoke with disillusionment about their meager progress relative to the commitments and promises made at the outset of this round.

As of late last night, the Americans failed to secure Palestinian acceptance of the U.S. proposal that the Palestinians and Israelis issue a joint statement identifying both the points of agreement and the sticking points blocking a declaration of principles. The Palestinian delegation is expected to respond to the U.S. proposal today. However, chances are the Palestinians will reject the proposal.

['Ashrawi] "Clearly the American perception seems to be more in tune with the Israeli position than with the Palestinian position."

No such American proposal has been made to the Jordanians, Syrians, or Lebanese.

[Al-'Allaf] "No such proposal has been made to the Syrian delegation..."

[Shammas, interrupting] "Nor to the Lebanese."

The chief Arab delegates met last night at the Palestinian delegation's residence to coordinate tactics.

['Abd-al-Shafi, in progress] "...emphasizing the vitality of a united Arab stand and the indivisibility of peace as has been made clear by King Husayn, the Syrian and Lebanese presidents, and we, the Palestinians, as well."

At their meeting, the Arab delegates were unanimous that it was a lack of commitment on the part of Israel to the terms of reference for a settlement that impeded movement in this round.

[Al-'Allaf] "Israel continues to refuse to budge from its refusal to vacate the occupied Arab territories and recognize the national rights of the Palestinian people. Even if Israel obligated itself to withdrawal, it would still be up to each individual party to define its own rights."

Regarding the American proposal for the negotiations to be open- ended and for the interlocutors to agree among themselves on a date for resuming the talks before they leave Washington:

['Abd-al-Shafi] "The new date will be discussed by the Arab foreign ministers, who will convene a conference shortly."

The Arab negotiators stated that the U.S. role in this round fell short of expectations and was inconsistent with American pronouncements that they would play the role of a full partner. This, despite their assertions that this time they played a more effective role through their daily contacts with the negotiating teams. At 1300 Washington time today, 2000 Amman time, the chief Arab delegates will convene a joint news conference to discuss the state of the talks.

Lebanon's Shammas Comments on 9th Round of Talks

NC1305202993 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1917 GMT 13 May 93

[Dispatch by Nuhad al-Hayik from Washington]

[Excerpts] The final session of the ninth round of Lebanese-Israeli bilateral talks ended today. The Israeli side

presented the Lebanese with a three-page list of questions concerning the Lebanese document. The Lebanese side promised to relay the questions to the Lebanese Government for study and appropriate action. [passage omitted]

After the session [Lebanese Foreign Ministry Secretary General Suhayl] Shammas said:

[Begin recording] It is our firm belief that the road to peace passes, as far as the Lebanese-Israeli track is concerned, through the withdrawal of all Israeli forces from all Lebanese occupied territory and up to the recognized international borders. There is an urgent need for full and speedy implementation of UN Security Council Resolutions 425 and 426. The Lebanese Government is the party responsible for maintaining order on Lebanese territory and in the area from which Israel should withdraw.

I have learned that the head of the Israeli delegation has told journalists that Israel seeks security arrangements along the Lebanese-Israeli borders. But, as you may notice, the head of the Israeli delegation, whenever he refers to the Lebanese borders, never uses the term international borders or the internationally recognized borders. He avoids these terms. The head of the Israeli delegation focuses on the security arrangements and refers to a treaty under which these arrangements are to be pursued. This means that Israel's position is in its essence to seek a treaty involving security measures and withdrawal.

Our position is that withdrawal is a must and that the Lebanese Government has the resolve and ability to extend its authority over this territory by relying on its own means. Praise be to God, we have rebuilt our Army and restored its unity. Our Army is the means by which we will extend our sovereignty and restore our right to exercise this sovereignty and achieve real independence enabling us to contribute to the peace process in a serious manner. [end recording]

Uri Lubrani, chief of the Israeli delegation, expressed hope that Lebanon will answer the Israeli questions ahead of the coming round. He expressed disappointment with the Lebanese document and reiterated Israel's refusal to alter its presence in the border strip unless a peace treaty produces security measures acceptable to both sides. Commenting on Lubrani's remarks, Shammas said that Lebanon alone will decide when to answer the Israeli questions.

Christopher Says U.S. Fulfilled Role as 'Full Partner'

JN1405070893 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0415 GMT 14 May 93

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher has said that the United States, the principal sponsor of the peace process, has fulfilled the role of full partner as well as it could, and that the Arabs and the Israelis must also fulfill their roles. REUTER cites Christopher as saying in statements to journalists yesterday: This was as far as we could go to in that regard.

He said: It is now for the parties concerned to decide if they want our help. We will help them if they ask us to help, but we cannot fulfill their roles for them.

Correction to 'Text' of Israeli Offer to Lebanon

TA1405090493

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "'Text' of Israeli Offer to Lebanon," published in the 12 May Near East & South Asia DAILY REPORT beginning on page 5 :

Column two, third paragraph, only sentence, make read: ...along the Israeli- Lebanese border—is the main interest... (correcting "Jordanian" to read "Lebanese")

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Asks Libyan Pilgrims Be Excluded From Embargo

NC1305153893 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 13 May 93

[Text] Our radio correspondent has learned that the Arab League has submitted an official memorandum to the Security Council asking it to exempt Libyan pilgrims from the air embargo on Libya and allow Libyan aircraft to fly them from Libya to the holy land.

A responsible Arab League source said the Security Council's response to this humane request will be an opportunity to prove the Council's credibility in not adopting double standards. The source expressed hope that the Council will be responsive to this request, which touches the Libyans' feelings and affirmed that this humane request should not be subject to any political circumstances.

Ibrahim al-Bishari, Libya's permanent representative at the Arab League, said in an exclusive statement that the League's contacts with the Security Council are conducted at the request of Libya and the seven-member committee entrusted with this issue. He said that travel to the holy land does not require permission and that preventing Libyan pilgrims from going directly from Libya to the holy land is considered an encroachment on religion.

APU Meeting Postponed Due to Internal Disputes

NC1205191193 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 8 May 93 p 2

[Report by 'Ali Khamis]

[Text] Egypt and several Arab countries have asked the Syrian Government to postpone the meeting of the Arab Parliamentary Union [APU] due to be held in Damascus on 19 May.

Syria is not optimistic about holding the meeting, which has already been postponed more than once because of

increasing differences among the Arab countries and the failure to reach a firm decision on the Iraqi and Kuwaiti representation at the meeting, especially after the Iraqi delegation's regrettable assault on the Kuwaiti delegation during the meetings of the International Parliamentary Union conference in New Delhi at the end of April.

The Egyptian request to postpone the meeting follows the escalation of the Egyptian-Sudanese crisis and attempts by 'Umar al- Bashir's regime to hold the meeting to break its isolation and gain the support of Arab countries.

Sudan will take over the APU chairmanship from Syria for a year if the meeting is held. The chairmanship will then go to Iraq. This has prompted several Arab countries to demand a postponement, while the Sudanese regime insists that it should be held as scheduled.

[In a related, Damascus-datelined report, Cairo MENA in Arabic at 1719 GMT on 12 May adds the following: "The APU, at the request of the Egyptian People's Assembly, agreed to postpone the 24th session due to be held in Damascus next month. The new date will be fixed later."]

Islamic Affairs

Islamic Organization in Africa Meeting Ends in Khartoum

EA1105154293 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 11 May 93

[Text] The second meeting of the trustee board of the Islamic Organization in Africa concluded its proceedings at the Friendship Hall in Khartoum yesterday evening. Dr. Hasan 'Abdallah al-Turaybi, secretary general of the Arab-Islamic People's Congress [and leader of the National Islamic Front], said that Sudan had been and would continue to serve as an axis for the unity of the Muslim nation. He said that Africa had been known as a point of radiation of Islam, and was a refuge for Muslims at the beginning of Islam. He said it was now witnessing the modern Islamic movement. He added that the Muslims in Africa were facing a Western, colonial, and [word indistinct] blockade. He stressed the need for Muslim unity in Africa in order to resist the enemies of Islam and the Muslims. Dr. al-Turaybi said that Africa should carry the message of Islam in order to reform the unjust international order.

Dr. Mustafa 'Uthman [name indistinct], secretary general of the International People's Friendship Council, commended the organization for choosing Khartoum as the venue for the second meeting of the trustee board. He said that the provocations to which Sudan was being subjected would not halt its progress. He stressed that Khartoum would continue to be a meeting point for dialogue and peace. He hoped that the Islamic organization would spread to all the continents.

At the end of the session, Retired Major General Shehu Musa Yar'adua, chairman of the Islamic Organization in Africa, addressed the gathering. At the beginning of the session the meeting was addressed by Muslim scholars from the delegations of Nigeria, Uganda, Mauritania, Tanzania, and Senegal. They stressed that Africa was a continent of peace and Islam. They praised the good neighborliness which Sudan enjoyed, and its role in spreading Islam in Africa.

The participants also commended Nigeria's efforts as the headquarters of the Islamic Organization in Africa, and confirmed their support for the organization in playing its role in spreading and protecting Islam. They stressed the need for a new Islamic order to confront the new world order which was targeting Islam and Muslims throughout the world.

Palestinian Affairs

Adviser Confirms Contacts Not Broken Off

TA1405083093 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 14 May 93

[Telephone interview with Ziyad Abu-Zayyad by Gilat Levi and Qobi Meydan—live]

[Text] [Levi] Palestinian delegation adviser Ziyad Abu-Zayyad is on the line. Good morning.

[Abu-Zayyad] Good morning.

[Levi] We would like to hear whether it is true that while the Palestinians are disappointed with the talks, they have not broken off contacts.

[Abu-Zayyad] In my opinion, this is the correct path. In no event should contacts be broken off. As for disappointment, we felt it deeply because the two sides—yours and ours—we almost did it. There were days when we thought we finally were doing business, making progress, but because of Israel's determination not to carry out the gestures it had promised prior to the talks, the atmosphere went sour and the outcome was inevitable.

[Meydan] Yet Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said yesterday that progress had been achieved in various spheres: The talks advanced from administrative matters to substance; there have been optimistic reports from Oslo as well. In spite of this, all the Arab delegations seem to be deliberately emphasizing their disappointment as a sort of tactical move.

[Abu-Zayyad] No, no, no, that is not true. I said we almost did it, and what I meant was that there was progress. Working groups were established, practical matters were discussed. It is not true we mention negative aspects only. You understood me correctly, and you should not have said what you did.

[Levi] The Americans have upgraded their involvement. You had American mediation, which you have always sought. What was wrong with that?

[Abu-Zayyad] It was not bad, but it occurred when the talks were almost at the point of disbanding. The two sides did not have sufficient time to discuss the proposal.

We are under the impression that the American document was submitted to the Israelis first. The Israelis made their comments, the document was amended accordingly, and only then was it submitted to the Palestinian delegation. This was the impression of the Palestinian delegation in Washington, which protested the fact that the Americans first consulted with the Israelis, showed them the draft, and submitted it to the Palestinian side only after hearing the Israeli response.

[Meydan] Is this an impression or firm knowledge?

[Abu-Zayyad] It is an impression that should be verified.

[Meydan] Earlier we heard a report on statements the Palestinian leadership has made about the terms the Palestinians will present before the 10th round of talks. Can you tell us about them?

[Abu-Zayyad] I do not think there is room for conditions in negotiations. Negotiations should be conducted without conditions. Those who conduct negotiations, however, should contribute their part to a positive atmosphere, which is necessary if the negotiations are to succeed. You cannot negotiate with me while heaping obstacles on my path, encumbering me, and preventing me from making progress. The Israeli side does not understand, for instance, the extent to which the closure on East Jerusalem is disrupting and ruining the life of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories. You cannot understand its impact on social, educational, health, and economic spheres. You can think of it only in terms of laborers working in Israel—period. You disregard us as human beings, you disregard our needs as human beings, and you try to determine the political status of Jerusalem without discussing it, failing to understand how much it incenses the people and cripples the delegation and its supporters.

[Levi] Then you will not return to the negotiating table unless the closure is relaxed?

[Abu-Zayyad] I am not saying whether we will or not, and I am presenting no terms. I am simply explaining that at every round of peace talks, the Israeli Government greets us with a new move: deportations, closure, and previously, new settlements. Each time we are about to embark on negotiations, it takes a step that makes things even more difficult for us. Each side should understand and avoid hampering the other.

[Levi] We thank you very much for this conversation, Ziyad Abu-Zayyad.

[Abu-Zayyad] You are welcome. Shalom.

Ten Palestinian Factions Denounce Talks

JN1805192493 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1630 GMT 13 May 93

["Political statement" issued by the 10 Palestinian factions opposed to the Arab-Israeli peace talks on the 15 May "Palestinian setback" anniversary; place and date not given]

[Text] O masses of our heroic people inside Palestine and in the diaspora. O masses of the Arab and Islamic nation. O heroes of the valiant intifadah: On 15 May comes the 45th anniversary of the Palestinian setback—an ominous anniversary of our people's uprooting from their home, Palestine, and their displacement. It is also an anniversary of the attempt to cancel our people's national identity, confiscate their territory, establish the Zionist entity in Palestine, and Judaize what is left of our territory, targeting the Palestinian people and aiming at fragmenting and dividing the Arab nation. The purpose is to protect imperialist interests in our region, create a stumbling block in the path of this nation's unity and development, and achieve the objectives and expansionist schemes of the Zionist movement.

What is happening today in Washington is an extension of this conspiracy and an embodiment of this plan. The setback anniversary comes about amid very critical and difficult circumstances on all levels. Our people's national cause is being subjected to very dangerous conspiracies to liquidate it, through unjust U.S.-Zionist dictates. The aim is to impose a solution to the Middle East crisis, the Palestine question being at its heart, without meeting the minimum aspirations of our people and their right to liberation, repatriation, and national independence.

The Madrid-Washington course has dwarfed the Palestine question, turning it from an issue of a nation into a question of groups of people, over which negotiations are being held to impose an administrative self-rule over part of the Palestinian territory, without any sovereignty and after leaving out Jerusalem and the diaspora. The most serious thing is that the PLO's influential leadership and its negotiating team have submitted to these dictates and conditions, and that the Palestinian team has continued to engage in the ninth round of the negotiations, in spite of the failure of these negotiations and the rejection of our people in the occupied territories and in the diaspora of these negotiations. This is also in spite of the Zionist entity's continued siege of hunger, killing, and destruction, turning its back on Security Council Resolution 799, which demands the immediate return of the Palestinian deportees to their home and families. Despite all of this and despite the fact that our people do not support its policy, this influential leadership is still maintaining its wagers.

The wide response of the people in and outside the territories to the appeals of the Palestinian factions—despite the attempts of the influential leadership to deceive our people and break the strikes and activities of our people by various means, all of which have failed—and the reinvigoration of the intifadah in spite of the increasing barbaric actions of the occupation soldiers and the gangs of settlers are cogent proof of how degenerated this policy has become, a policy which is becoming more and more isolated.

On this anniversary, we greet, praise, and value our people and their brave intifadah, which is defying the oppressive Zionist aggression. We also greet our people

in the land that has been occupied since 1948, as well as our relatives in the diaspora, for their united stand rejecting the conspiracy of administrative self- rule, expulsion, and resettlement in foreign lands and the diaspora. We once again call on the influential leadership in the PLO to announce its immediate withdrawal from the bilateral and multilateral negotiations. This alone will pave the way for a national and comprehensive dialogue among all the Palestinian factions to regain the PLO's unity and reformulate a united national stand in a manner that responds to the higher interest [5-minute break in transmission].

While we greet the steadfastness of the hero deportees in Marj al-Zuhur and are proud of their insistence to abide by the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 799, regarding their immediate and collective return to their homeland and their families, we will not permit their cause to be belittled and bypassed, and our people, all of our people, will remain on their side until they are returned to their homeland in a dignified manner.

We in the 10 Palestinian factions appeal to active and conscientious forces worldwide to support our just cause and adopt stands and measures that would end the siege of starvation and the massacres the Zionist entity commits against our people in the occupied territories. We also appeal to the sons of our Arab and Islamic nation to support our people's heroic intifadah with all means to enable it to achieve its objectives of repulsing the occupation, attaining national independence, and enabling our Palestinian people in the occupied territories and in the diaspora to achieve their aspirations for liberation, repatriation, and exercising their right to self-determination on their national soil.

On this anniversary, we affirm that the defeat of this plan is the task of every son of the Arab and Islamic nation through their unity, the mobilization of their active forces, and the release of their democratic liberties, which is the only course for repulsing this plan.

The 10 Palestinian factions reiterate their call to the masses of our people [10-minute break in transmission] general national strike.

Long live free and Arab Palestine. Long live our people's heroic intifadah. Glory and immortality to our martyrs.

[Signed] The 10 Palestinian factions

PFLP Praises Palestinian Team for Rejecting Israeli Plan

JN1305100693 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 13 May 93 p 23

[By 'Awdah 'Awdah]

[Text] The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP], one of the leading 10 Palestinian factions opposing the negotiations, has for the first time praised the Palestinian delegation for rejecting the Israeli plan on self-administration.

In an exclusive statement to AL-RA'Y, 'Abd-al-Rahim Malluh, member of the PLO Executive Committee and PFLP representative, said: I value the refusal of the Palestinian delegation, headed by Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, to respond to U.S. and Israeli pressures and its rejection of the Israeli plan on self-administration, which was presented to it in Washington at the end of last week. He called for a comprehensive and responsible national dialogue prior to holding the PLO Central Council meeting in order to secure the participation of all parties, including those who are not members of the PLO Central Council and the PLO Executive Committee such as the Hamas [Islamic Resistance] Movement and Palestinian figures from inside and outside the occupied territories. This is in order to conduct a comprehensive political overview of the course of the negotiations, organize the Palestinian house from within, and deepen national Palestinian unity to confront challenges and pressures exerted by the U.S.-Israeli alliance on the Palestinian people.

Malluh emphasized the need to maintain national unity, prevent further divisions in the Palestinian arena, and maintain the intifadah to confront the Israeli occupation. He also called on Palestinian and Arab national and Islamic forces to unify efforts and stands to confront the challenges facing our Palestinian people and Arab nation, try to avoid side battles that waste these forces' efforts and aim them instead at confronting the common enemy.

Responding to a question, Malluh said: We call for learning a lesson from the experiment of the ninth round of negotiations, especially from some Arab parties which pressured the Palestinian side into taking part in the negotiations.

Concluding his statement to AL-RA'Y, Malluh called for a unified Palestinian and Arab stand in order to achieve Palestinian and pan-Arab rights. He also urged support for Palestinian demands as well as refusal to respond to U.S. pressures and Israeli blackmail.

Warning Against 'Collapse' of Peace Process

TA1305194593 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 13 May 93 p 9

[Editorial: "So That the Peace Process Will Not Collapse"]

[Text] The outcome of the ninth round of bilateral talks, slated to end today, affirms that real progress did not occur in any of the Arab-Israeli negotiating tracks despite all the guarantees and undertakings that preceded this round on achieving such progress. Moreover, developments in the occupied territories affirm that nothing new has occurred since the start of the ninth round whether with regard to improving the human rights situation in the occupied territories or easing the imposed severe measures. Rather, in some aspects the situation has deteriorated with the continuation of the

closure on one hand, and the growing number of martyrs and wounded, especially among children and the elderly, on the other hand.

This situation reflects clearly the glaring contradiction between the climate of peace, which is supposed to be tangible and obvious, and the reality of the intensifying suffering of the occupied territories' residents. This contradiction will become more acute if the talks are stalled and no concrete result is achieved that might end or at least ease this suffering.

At the start of the ninth round, the Palestinian negotiating delegation had announced that it reserves for itself the right to suspend the talks if they remain bogged down and make no progress. In the third week of the ninth round talks, in view of the fact that Israel continued to present familiar positions that had always been rejected by the Palestinian side, the Palestinian negotiating delegation reduced its members who participate in the talks to three and suspended talks in the three working committees. Apparently, such a development has not yet turned on the warning signal to the United States, the major sponsor of the peace talks, or to the Israeli Government which so far has failed to back the slogans on the desire to advance in the talks with any practical proposals that might constitute a sound basis for progress. What applies to the Palestinian-Israeli track also applies to the other tracks.

If the United States and Israel realize the perils of the collapse of the peace process, a continued stalemate entails an imminent approach of those perils. We believe that avoiding those perils requires Israel today to fulfill its promises on improving the situation in the occupied territories. It should take fundamental steps toward this end and hasten to solve the issue of the Marj al-Zuhur deportees on one hand, and present proposals that form a sound basis for the talks on the other hand. Moreover, the United States is required to deliver on the promises that it made to the Palestinian side and the Arab parties, foremost of which active intervention in the talks with the aim of achieving real progress and ensuring that the pledges given before the resumption of the ninth round are honored. Without this, the scope of the existing contradiction between talk about peace and the reality of Palestinian suffering will increase to the extent that the talks will near collapse. This, we believe, will not serve the interests of any party.

Arab Heritage Said 'Abandoned' in Drive for Normalization

PM1305131393 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 10 May 93 p 11

[Editorial: "Abolition of the Boycott and the Change of Syllabi"]

[Text] The process of ending the Arab economic boycott of Israel is proceeding very quietly. Some of those breaking the boycott laws claim that what is really happening is that some of the American and European companies which deal with Israel have been overlooked and that the boycott of Israel and its products is still continuing without any change.

That justification is unacceptable, because the importance of the boycott weapon lies in the penalization of the companies which trade with Israel, including a ban on trade with such companies by all the Arab states. This means that many companies would have to think twice before proceeding to trade with the Hebrew state when they know that such a step would put them on the blacklist of all the Arab states, especially the rich Arab states such as the Gulf states.

True, the Arab frontline states are currently engaged in peace negotiations with Israel, but negotiations as such do not mean that the Arab-Israeli conflict has ended or that peace is guaranteed. States usually step up the pressure on their enemies before and during negotiations. They do not just surrender all their weapons and begin to make free concessions.

We know that much American and European pressure is now being brought to bear on the Gulf states to end their boycott and gradually establish economic relations with Israel, but the United States, however strong it may be, cannot and has no right to dictate to Arab merchants or businessmen what companies they should or should not trade with, and it cannot force Arab citizens to purchase their goods from one company and not another or to purchase one particular commodity and not another.

Trading with British or American companies which deal with Israel is a prelude to the entry of Israeli commodities into all Arab markets under different names and without carrying the original Hebrew names. It is a first step until there is an opportunity for more and until Arab-Israeli hostility eases as a result of the eagerness of some Arab regimes to grant all American demands without argument.

It is clear that the Arab states which lost their independent decisionmaking power after the Gulf war, and which have begun to prepare for the normalization of relations with Israel in response to U.S. wishes, have actually taken some steps in that direction and have changed their school syllabi.

The change of syllabi was made to lessen hostility to the Jews, treat Israel as a fait accompli, and eliminate everything to do with the crusade wars and the Arab heroism in the liberation of Jerusalem.

It is regrettable that most geographical books in the Arab homeland now recognize Israel, regard its borders as final, and have erased all references to Palestine and its historical borders.

This is the first time in history that a deep-rooted nation such as the Arab nation has cancelled out its memory, abandoned its heritage, and turned its back on its heroes and victories just to please the White House and normalize relations with Israel.

Egypt

Ministry Denies IRNA Claim of Cut Phone Links

NC1405065893 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0601 GMT 14 May 93

[Text] Cairo, 14 May (MENA)—In a statement to AL-JUMHURIYAH newspaper today Foreign Ministry Spokesman Naji al-Ghatrifi denied IRNA reports that Egypt has severed telephone links with countries that have relations with Egyptian terrorists, including Sudan, Iran, Pakistan, and Afghanistan.

The press spokesman for the Sudanese Embassy in Cairo had alleged that direct telephone lines to Sudan had been cut and that contacts were being carried out only via government telephones.

Claim About 'Egyptian Threats' to Sudan Refuted

NC1405085193 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0606 GMT 14 May 93

[Text] Cairo, 14 May (MENA)—The Cairo newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH affirms that President Mubarak's current Gulf tour seeks to foster inter-Arab solidarity and emerge from the current regrettable conditions in the Arab world.

In today's editorial, the paper says that while Egypt was carrying out its role of being the fortress of Arab solidarity and collective action, al-Bashir-al-Turabi's regime in Sudan came up with new allegations about so-called "Egyptian threats", designed perhaps to disrupt this tour and its basic objectives.

The paper explains that these allegations are so obviously false that they require no response, particularly after Mubarak announced that Egypt will not fight the fraternal Sudanese people. It describes the allegations as no more than a tempest in a teapot because the entire Arab nation and the fraternal Sudanese people know how worthless these allegations are and realize that those who are seeking to restore Arab solidarity can never think of fighting a fraternal people. As Mubarak said, we "are more concerned about the Sudanese people than al-Bashir's regime."

Draft Accord for Kuwaiti Dinar Loan Signed

NC1305175993 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1341 GMT 13 May 93

[Excerpt] Cairo, 13 May (MENA)—Egypt and the Kuwaiti Economic Development Fund have signed a draft accord under which Egypt will obtain from the fund a loan worth 25 million Kuwaiti dinars for a project to reclaim 400,000 feddans of land north of Sinai. The two sides reached the accord in 1990.

The accord was signed for Egypt by Samir Hasan, under secretary of the Ministry of International Cooperation, and for Kuwait by the fund's legal adviser Zakariyya al-Hashim.

This loan represents the second part of the project's financing. The fund extended to Egypt a 20-million Kuwaiti dinar loan before. [passage omitted]

Libya

U.S. Report on Human Rights Rejected

LD1305192193 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1810 GMT 13 May 93

["Statement by Official Source in the General People's Committee for External Liaison and International Cooperation"—JANA headline]

[Text] Tripoli, 13 May (JANA)—This morning, 13 May 1993, the Voice of America reported that the American State Department had received a report from its embassy in Khartoum stating that the Sudanese Government has committed a wide range of violations of human rights in southern Sudan, where it had abducted women and children and transported them to Libya as slaves.

In this regard, an official source at the General People's Committee for External Liaison and International Cooperation has expressed its astonishment and amazement at the insertion of the name of the Great Jamahiriyah in that report and has strongly denied its contents. It added that this false and fabricated accusation against the Great Jamahiriyah seeks to harm the reputation of the Great Jamahiriyah and distort its image before world public opinion.

It affirmed that the Arab Libyan people, who have created the great green document for human rights and called for the liberation of the oppressed and the weak and has transformed wage-earners into partners—for a wage-earner, regardless of the improvement in his wages, remains a kind of slave—strongly reject these false allegations directed against them.

Libyan-Ukrainian Cooperation Talks Begin

LD1205212093 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1930 GMT 12 May 93

[Excerpt] The Arab Libyan-Ukrainian talks began this evening between the acting secretary of the General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation, Ukrainian Vice Premier Yevhen Reshida, and a number of experts and specialists in the Great Jamahiriyah and Ukraine. Yevhen Reshida arrived this morning in the Great Jamahiriyah. [passage omitted]

Minutes of Libyan-Vietnamese Commission Signed

LD1305193093 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1615 GMT 13 May 93

[Text] Tripoli, 13 May (JANA)—The minutes of the meeting of the fifth session of the Libyan-Vietnamese mixed commision were signed at noon today. The minutes were signed by, on the Libyan side, the brother secretary of the General People's Committee for Marine

Resources, and on the Vietnamese side by Minister of Construction Ngo Xuan Loc, who is currently visiting the Great Jamahiriyah.

Following the signing the brother secretary of the General People's Committee for Marine Resources made a speech in which he stressed the importance of the positive results reached by the commission at its meetings to develop cooperation between the Great Jamahiriyah and Vitenam in a manner that serves the common interests of the Libyan Arab and Vietnamese peoples.

Vietnam Construction Minister Ngo Xuan Loc also made a speech. He conveyed greetings from the president of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, Le Duc Anh, to the brother leader of the revolution and the Libyan Arab people, reaffirming his country's desire to develop and strengthen relations with the Great Jamahiriyah and to move them forward in a way that improves and strengthen these relations in the interest of both friendly peoples.

The minutes of the meetings of the fifth session of the Libyan Arab-Vietnamese Mixed Commission include reaffirmation of the development of the mixed cooperation in the economic and commercial spheres and the common investment and banks and the spheres of water agriculture, ports, and harbors used for sea fishing. The minutes also include cooperation in the postal and communications spheres, studies, scientific research, and cooperation in the media and cultural spheres. A subcommittee has been set up stemming from the mixed commission in order to follow up the implementation of the results of the meetings of this session.

The Libyan Arab-Vietnamese Mixed Commission will hold its sixth session during the first half of next year in the Vietnamese capital, Hanoi.

Agreement Reached With Egypt on Economic Integration

LD1305211593 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1930 GMT 13 May 93

[Text] The joint committee for the realization of economic integration between the Great Jamahiriyah and fraternal Egypt concluded its meetings this afternoon. Dr Atif 'Ubayd, the [Egyptian] minister of state for cabinet affairs, declared after the meeting that projects for the development of services were drawn up, particularly in the health and education sectors. He said that a number of consultants would be entrusted with following up the implementation of the main projects and linking them up. These projects include power link-up, oil pipelines, services along the road between Sallum and Alexandria, the development of the international highway, the railroads, and the telephone network in addition to cooperation in the field of information and the boosting of radio and tv transmissions.

He added that several projects on investment, the development of tourism, and animal resources will be drawn up, in addition to the creation of a company for the development of industries.

Mauritania

President Receives Message From 'Arafat

LD1305084093 Nouakchott ORTM Radio in Arabic 2030 GMT 12 May 93

[Excerpts] The president this afternoon received Hakam Bal'awi, member of the Fatah Central Committee and personal envoy of Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat. [passage omitted]

In a statement to our colleague Ahmed Mahmoud after the meeting, the Palestinian envoy said that he handed the president a letter from Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat concerning the latest developments on the Palestine issue and the peace process. [passage omitted]

President Receives Envoy

AB1405073093 Nouakchott ORTM Radio in French 1930 GMT 12 May 93

[Excerpts] President Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya today received a special emissary from Yasir 'Arafat of Palestine. He is Mr. Hakim Bal'wi, a member of the Fatah Central Committee. Also present at the meeting were the presidential advisor, Mr. Mohammed Ould Mouni, and the Palestinian ambassador to Mauritania, His Excellency (Besyar Isiam). At the end of this meeting, Mr. Hakim Bal'awi disclosed that he had delivered a message on developments in the Middle East and the evolution of the peace negotiations.

He also briefed the head of state on the situation of Palestinians in the occupied territories, who face repression, massacre, daily destruction, isolation, and [words indistinct]. The Palestinian envoy pointed out that in spite of all Israeli extortions, the Palestinian people are bravely facing up to the situation, thanks to their heroic intifadah. They are firmly convinced that they will triumph in spite of all the difficulties. He added that the Palestinian people, (?supported) by their brothers, particularly those in Mauritania, have great consideration for the Mauritanian head of state and his government, as well as for all Mauritanians. [passage omitted]

The special envoy further stated that Chairman 'Arafat asked him to convey to the head of state, the Mauritanian Government, and the people his (?highest) regards, prior to his visit to Mauritania at the opportune time.

Morocco

Algerian Officials Arrive for Joint Talks

LD1205180693 Rabat Moroccan Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 12 May 93

[Excerpt] Abdelaziz Khellaf, the Algerian minister delegate in charge of cooperation and Maghreb affairs, accompanied by Aissa Brahim, director general for Arab affairs at the Foreign Ministry, and Sassi Boulassaa, director of the Arab Maghreb Union, arrived in Morocco

this afternoon to take part in the preparatory meeting of the fourth session of the Moroccan-Algerian mixed commission. [passage omitted]

Four Opposition Parties Adopt Common Program

LD1205155493 Rabat MAP in English 1340 GMT 12 May 93

[Text] Rabat, May 12 (MAP)—The four opposition parties, namely the Istiqlal, the USFP [Socialist Union of Popular Forces], the PPS [Party of Progress and Socialism] and the OADP [Organization for Democratic and Popular Action] forming the Democratic Bloc adopted a common political, economic [word indistinct] program. These parties dailies have all hailed the move as a historical decision that [word indistinct] benefit the whole country.

For 'AL-BAYANE' of the Party for Progress and Socialism, the adoption of the program is a 'historical decision' because 'it offers a [word indistinct] of hope to the popular masses and great possibilities for the country to undertake significant change. The decision is evidence to the four parties' will to contribute to the well-being of the country, the daily said adding that the parties have decided to carry on joint action and consultation after the elections both within and outside the House of Representatives.

The PPS other daily in Arabic 'BAYANE AL-YAOUM' also focuses on the Koutla's [Bloc's] common program in the editorial, titled 'a work document and a pact of honor'. The editorialist underlines that under the new accord, the four parties first pledge to adopt during the coming electoral battle 'a civilized behavior and a spirit of democratic dialogue and respect of all opinions'. He states that the document binds the parties to carry on joint action within and outside the parliament.

For 'L'OPINION' of the Istiqlal Party, the program aims at 'saving the country through the adoption of the necessary reforms', 'putting an end to the crisis' and 'meeting stability requirements'. The daily underlines that the new common program also aims at 'endowing national economy with efficient implements for a better integration in the regional and international environment' in addition to 'setting up a society securing to all Moroccans a decent life, providing youth with all chances and protecting the nation's interests'.

[Word indistinct] the USFP two dailies [words indistinct] and 'LIBERATION' announce that the party is to hold a meeting next Saturday underline that "the new common program includes practical and objective proposals related to all areas". The USFP papers highlight the four signatory parties' commitment to conduct, after the elections, a joint political and parliamentary action meant to reach a number of goals including 'constitutional, political and economic reforms'.

Sudan

Further Reportage, Comment on Hala'ib Situation

Egyptians Send Second Brigade

NC1305154893 Paris AFP in English 1509 GMT 13 May 93

[Text] Khartoum, May 13 (AFP)—Egypt has posted a second brigade of troops in the disputed oil-rich border territory of Hala'ib, far outnumbering Sudanese forces there, Sudanese Interior Minister 'Abd-al-Rahim Husayn says.

He told parliament Wednesday that the Sudanese troops in the region consisted of border guards, police and members of the People's Defence Force, a militia created in 1992.

It was the first time the government disclosed the presence of the militia in the region.

General Husayn added that the Egyptian forces had reimposed a "siege" they had temporarily lifted on the Shalatin and Abu Ramad parts of the enclave, after saying Wednesday that the siege of police stations was over.

The minister had then said the siege ended after contacts between Egyptian and Sudanese military commanders in the contested zone, which lies on the Red Sea and was given to Egypt under an 1899 agreement with Britain.

The new brigade would take the Egyptian military presence in Hala'ib to over 10,000 men, since a brigade consists of between 5,000 and 6,000 soldiers, observers said.

Sudanese officials said Sunday that Egyptian security forces had arrested three Sudanese policemen, leading Sudan to detain three Egyptian policemen. All had been simultaneously freed, the press reported Wednesday.

The military junta in Khartoum recently accused Cairo of boosting the number of its troops in Hala'ib from 1,000 to 5,000 and of sending an ultimatum last week not to post Sudanese troops north of Port Sudan, 300 kilometres (190 miles) south of the region.

Responding to reports that Egypt had denied sending any warning to Sudan, Foreign Ministry official 'Umar Baridu on Tuesday told journalists that the ultimatum had been issued through official channels.

Conflict over Hala'ib, a triangular area of 20,000 square kilometers (8,000 square miles), resurfaced in 1991 when Sudan gave a Canadian oil company a permit to look for oil in the region.

Sudan has been allowed to administer the area's Sudanese population under the 1899 agreement.

RCC Chairman Comments

EA1305171893 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 0315 GMT 13 May 93

[Excerpt] Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council and the Council of Ministers, has affirmed that Sudan does not want to open a

new front in Hala'ib while important talks with the rebel movement to achieve peace in the country are taking place in Abuja and Nairobi. His Excellency said certain circles opposed to Sudan were trying to abort the talks. He made the remarks during his regular meeting with media leaders at the general secretariat of the Council of Ministers. Lt. Gen. al-Bashir affirmed the government's adherence to its principles at the talks, particularly as regards the application of the Islamic laws.

Referring to the current Arab situation, the chairman said: If the efforts to clear the Arab air succeed, then the interests of the Arab masses whom all the hostile forces are trying to exploit by planning and executing the forces' objectives—such as the Israeli enemy—would be preserved. He said these forces were trying to incite the Arab states against each other as a substitute for foreign intervention, which the Arab people and the patriotic forces in the Arab homeland reject. He called on the Arab masses to unite against the dangers threatening them.

On the talks which recently opened between the government and the united faction of the rebel movement in the Kenyan capital, Lt. Gen. al-Bashir said: These talks have confirmed that this faction of the movement is more positive. [passage omitted]

TNA Discusses Issue

EA1305172393 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 2145 GMT 12 May 93

[Text] The Transitional National Assembly [TNA] chaired by Professor Muhammad al-Amin al-Basir, TNA deputy speaker, during its session today heard an elaborate statement delivered by Brigadier 'Abd-al-Rahim Muhammad Husayn, the minister of interior, on the recent Egyptian provocations and threats in the Hala'ib area.

After deliberations, the TNA adopted a resolution confirming, to begin with, its full awareness of the intensive foreign presence ensuing from the Gulf war, a presence aimed against the nation's aspirations to unity and faith and the liberation of its will in determining its future. Sudan's determination to promote its civilizing plans despite all challenges had served to exacerbate the tension.

The TNA resolved to address the Egyptian people directly by various means through their popular leadership and consultative and party councils to acquaint them with the consequences of what their present leaders are pushing us into and to call on them to discharge their responsibility to preserve the heritage of the relationship between the two peoples.

The TNA also resolved to take every step needed to protect the country's interests and to defend it against any aggressor.

The TNA resolved to acquaint the internal front with the perils towards which the Egyptian leaders and their backers are pushing us, as well as submitting the issue to international and regional parliamentary unions, parliaments of sisterly states, and Arab and African regional organizations.

The TNA expressed support for the resolutions of the people's organization for the defense of the faith and the homeland.

The TNA also resolved to send a delegation comprising Assembly members to visit the Hala'ib area.

The Assembly condemned the slavish conduct of the scattered stooge and denominationalist remnants which had adopted Cairo as their headquarters from which to implement their hostile designs against the Sudanese people.

In its resolution the TNA lauded the Armed Forces, the People's Defense Forces, and the security forces for their appreciable role in protecting the homeland.

Abuja Peace Talks Continue; Reportage, Commentary

Spokesman on Roots of Conflict

EA1205210493 Khartoum SUNA in English 1600 GMT 12 May 93

[Text] Abuja, 12th May (SUNA)—Spokesman of the government to the peace talks Dr 'Ali al-Hajj [Muhammad] has said that the second session of peace talks revealed that the issue of distribution of power and wealth was the essence of the conflict, but not the issue of the relation between the religion and state, as some circles used to portray it. In a press statement following a session, Dr al-Hajj said that the two sides discussed the issue of petroleum exploration, explaining that the government delegation's view was that oil exploration is the duty of the central government while [Colonel John] Garang's faction considered that it must be a power of the state.

He noted that the government's delegation asserted that ownership of all the natural resources shall be a common right for all the Sudanese people, adding that this is the situation all over the world, including Nigeria.

Dr al-Haj underlined that an erroneous understanding was prevalent within the other party that missionary activity is confined to Christian missions only, adding that considering missionary activity as a jurisdiction of the state contravenes the doctrine to freedom of religion which is an essential demand of Garang's group.

He said the call of Garang's group for authorizing each state to decide its own missionary policies arouses suspicion of the movement's intention to prevent the Muslims in the South from practising freedom of worship and religion.

According to 'Ali al-Hajj, the controversial issues which were not resolved were referred to the committee of the delegations' chairmen for more discussion, saying that the issue of educational planning was settled.

He asserted that religion has never been a cause of the conflict in southern Sudan.

Meanwhile, during an interview by the Nigerian radio, Dr al-Hajj said that John Garang is still the main

obstacle on the peace way, wondering why Garang leaves for the U.S. At a time witnessing the two parties holding peace talks.

He attributed the current lack of food and security in the South to the clashes between the outlaws' factions. The outlaws' movement is alone responsible for aggravating the sufferings of the citizens in the south intentionally, he said, adding that the outlaws think that they can deceive the whole world when they say that the government is the source of miseries of the South.

Dr al-Hajj has underscored the paramount role of the Nigerian Government towards resolution of the southern Sudan question. He also affirmed the government's keenness to achieve a peaceful solution to the problem.

Talks Abruptly Adjourned

AB1305134093 Paris AFP in English 1334 GMT 13 May 93

[Text] Abuja, May 13 (AFP)—Nigerian-mediated peace talks between the Khartoum military junta and rebels of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) adjourned immediately after opening Thursday, in the absence of the government delegation.

The latest delay in the talks, in their third week, could be related to the possible arrival in the Nigerian capital of a Sudanese Government delegation, a source close to the talks said, but officials would not confirm this.

A Sudanese mission could bring a reply from Khartoum to an undisclosed message from Nigerian President Ibrahim Babangida, who was out to break a deadlock in the negotiations over the question of Islamic sharia law in Sudan or a secular state. The talks had been due to end on May 2.

Colonel John Garang's SPLA, up against splinter groups from its own ranks, has been fighting since 1983 to end domination of mainly animist and Christian southern Sudan by the Arabic-speaking and Islamic north.

Committees To Study Issues

AB1305143493 Lagos NTA Television Network in English 2000 GMT 12 May 93

[Text] The Abuja II talks, which entered the 17th day today, has set up two new committees to study in detail some of the matters arising from the peace talks. The two committees, which are expected to submit their reports to the full conference tomorrow, are the Chairmen's Committee comprising leaders of the two sides to the conflict, and the Technical Committee on Revenue Allocation in the Sudan.

Correspondent Inus Dunia reports that the chairman of the Sudanese peace talks, Dr. Tunji Olagunju, has left Abuja for the Sudan to deliver special messages to the head of the Khartoum government, and the leader of the SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army], Colonel John Garang.

The committee which has four members each from both sides to the Sudanese conflict, is to study the interim arrangement, which includes devolution of powers, the question of cease-fire, security arrangement, and the definition of the state. The core problem of state and religion as it affects shari'ah has not been resolved since the beginning of the second Abuja peace talks on Sudan.

The spokesman of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army and the Movement, Mr. Nhial Deng Nhial, told NTA news that the issue of state and religion should be resolved in order to achieve a meaningful breakthrough in the peace process.

[Begin Nhial recording] Because this is what lies at the root of the conference in the first place. Shari'ah or the elevation of any given religion in our country, specifically Islam in this case, to the state of a state religion gravely complicates the resolution of the structure of state power, and thereby makes the achievement of a peaceful solution out of bounds. [end recording]

Dr. 'Ali al-Haj Muhammad, spokesman for the Khartoum Government explained that a lot can be said to have been achieved based on the fact that the two main parties in the conflict are now discussing at committee levels without mediators. Dr. 'Ali al-Haj Muhammad, who is the Sudanese minister of planning and investment, noted that although religion now forms a core issue in the Sudanese crisis, it has been over-exposed.

[Begin Muhammad recording] I don't think that religion was the cause. I think the causes were other than religion, and right now, some of the questions we are asking and we are discussing, the question of mining for example, inland mining belonging to the state or to the Federal, what is religious about it? [sentence as heard] [end recording]

Garang Criticized on Unification

EA1305202993 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 2145 GMT 12 May 93

[Text] Mr. Angelo Beda, a member of the government delegation to the Abuja II negotiations, has criticized the demand of [John] Garang's group to unify the three southern states into one state. Beda told the SUNA correspondent in Abuja that the existence of three states in the south emphasized power sharing, pointing out that the division of the south into three states occurred in response to demands by the people of Equatoria because one tribe controlled all the utilities there.

Archbishop Butrus Kuwah, a member of the government delegation, stressed that the issue of Islamic law did not constitute an obstacle to the progress of the negotiations, contrary to what the elements opposed to a peaceful solution were asserting. Bishop Butrus said peace could not come through war, pointing to foreign quarters (?exacerbating) the dispute and striving to obfuscate the facts. Bishop Butrus accused expatriate southern politicians of being unaware of conditions at home and of deliberately obstructing the peace process.

Al-Bashir: Shari'a Implementation Nonnegotiable

EA1305113093 Khartoum SUNA in French 1610 GMT 12 May 93

[Text] Khartoum, 12 May (SUNA)—The Revolution Command Council chairman, General 'Umar al-Bashir, has affirmed that Sudan will never give up Islamic laws, regardless of the conspiracies hatched against it by international and regional circles. During his meeting with local media leaders in Khartoum on 12 May, the leader of the revolution said powers hostile to Islam wanted to undermine the Islamic orientation adopted by the Sudanese Government and which represents the hopes of Muslims in many countries. He added that abandonment of the Islamic laws had led to the failure of all governments whose presidents had submitted to foreign pressure.

Gen. al-Bashir also revealed that former President Ja'far al- Numayri had left the country for ever as the price for abolishing Islamic laws; that former Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi was due to sign an agreement on the abolition of the divine laws on a Friday morning when the national revolution broke out; and that Muhammad 'Uthman al-Mirghani, leader of the banned al-Ittihad al-Dimuqrati [Democratic Union] party had concluded an agreement on the abolition of the Islamic laws with rebel John Garang. Gen. al- Bashir also affirmed that implementation of Islamic laws in the northern part of the country was nonnegotiable.

Government Paper's Chief Editor Relieved of Post

NC1405120093 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0732 GMT 14 May 93

[Text] Khartoum, 14 May (MENA)—Lieutenant General 'Umar al- Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council for National Salvation and prime minister, has relieved Musa Ya'qub of his post as chief editor and member of the Board of Directors of AL-INQADH AL-WATANI newspaper. He appointed Sayyid al-Khatib as the paper's chief editor and member of the Board of Directors of Al-I'lam Printing and Publishing Institution.

AL-INQADH AL-WATANI is the mouthpiece of the Sudanese National Salvation revolution.

Tunisia

Telephone Services With Iraq Said Resumed Via INTELSAT

JN1305142993 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2011 GMT 12 May 93

[Text] Tunis, 12 May (INA)—Iraq and Tunisia have decided to reinstate telephone services between the two countries by way of the International Telecommunications Satellite Organization, INTELSAT, instead of the Arab Satellite Communication Organization, Arabsat, as of today, Wednesday.

This was announced to an INA correspondent in Tunis today by [Iraqi] Minister of Transport and Communications 'Abd-al-Sattar Ahmad al-Ma'ini. The minister noted that this agreement was reached during a meeting he held with Tunisian Communications Minister Habib Lazreg on the sidelines of the meetings of the 16th session of the Arabsat General Assembly, which concluded here yesterday.

The minister criticized the positions of certain reactionary Arab regimes within Arabsat, saying that Iraq requested that the aforementioned organization restore services with the Iraqi ground station. However, Arabsat rejected this request, contending that Iraq is indebted to it and that it must pay back its debts before telephone services via its ground station can be restored, overlooking the economic circumstances being experienced by Iraq as a result of the continued unfair economic embargo imposed on it for approximately three years now.

'Abd-al-Sattar al-Ma'ini indicated that INTELSAT restored telephone services with the Iraqi ground station even though Iraq is indebted to it.

The minister of transport and communications paid tribute to the efforts made by Iraqi mujahidin to rebuild the Iraqi ground communications station, drawing on Iraqi expertise and resources in a record period of time.

Ben Ali Visits Former President Bourguiba

LD1305183493 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 13 May 93

[Text] This morning President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali went to Monastir to visit Habib Bourguiba at his residence. President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali enquired about his health, assured him of his continued interest in his well-being, and reaffirmed his eagerness to provide all the health supervision and daily care that Bourguiba requires at his residence or in his travels. The leader Habib Bourguiba expressed his pleasure at the visit and thanked the president for coming personally to assure himself about his well- being.

Joint Communique With Guinea Issued

LD1305221793 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 13 May 93

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] A Tunisian-Guinean joint communique was released this evening at the end of the four-day official visit to Tunisia of Guinean Foreign Minister Ibrahima Sylla at the invitation of his counterpart, Mr. Habib Ben Yahia. The communique said, among other things, that during their working session the two sides reviewed the state of bilateral relations and ways and means to develop and diversify them. The two

sides also stressed the need to take note of the decisions taken by the Joint Cooperation Committee and highlighted the importance of the private sector through the development of partnership in all fields.

The two ministers also expressed their satisfaction with the positive development of bilateral cooperation which has been achieved in the interest of the two fraternal peoples.

Kuwait

Saudi Ulema Praised for Rejecting Human Rights Committee

LD1305091093 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0636 GMT 13 May 93

[Excerpt] Kuwait, 13 May (KUNA)—A Kuwaiti newspaper has commended the statement of the Senior Ulema Council in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia annulling the establishment of a so-called Committee for the Defense of Rights Under the Shari'ah.

AL-SIYASAH pointed out here today in an editorial that "the statement issued by the Kingdom's Ulema Council expresses the magnanimous spirit of Islam and confronts those who are attempting to raise the flags of extremism in order to make the country suffer from differences which have no reason to exist."

The newspaper added that "the benevolent ulema who issued the statement were aware of all the consequences, studied their position well, and spoke the truth in the face of sedition that is attempting to raise its head carrying the banner of Islam, is claiming piety and knowledge for itself, and is trying to mislead the people and divide them by adopting extremist positions."

AL-SIYASAH affirms that "the statement of the Senior Ulema Council has given a warning that the extremism that is playing havoc in Egypt and Algeria has no place in Saudi society, in which Islam prevails." [passage omitted]

Economic Development Fund Signs Loan Accord With Egypt

LD1305191493 Kuwait KSC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 13 May 93

[Excerpt] The Kuwaiti Economic Development Fund and the Egyptian Government signed today a draft loan agreement for the financing of the second reclamation phase of 400,000 feddans in the north of Sinai in the Arab Republic of Egypt. The loan amounts to about 25 million dinars to be repayed over 20 years with a five-year grace period at a three percent rate of interest. [passage omitted]

Oil Minister on Increasing Output Capacity

LD1205190293 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1420 GMT 12 May 93

[Excerpt] Kuwait, 12 May (KUNA)—Oil Minister 'Ali Ahmad al-Baghli announced today that Kuwait's production capability will reach 2.4 million barrels per day [bpd] at the end of June.

In a meeting with international and local press delegations, the oil minister said that Kuwait's present production capability amounts to 2.2 million barrels, "2 million barrels from inside Kuwait, and 200,000 barrels from the neutral zone divided between Kuwait and Saudi Arabia." The minister mentioned that some OPEC countries are exceeding their production quotas, and said that he will ask them to implement the commitments to which they pledged themselves at their February meeting.

The oil minister expects an increase in the demand for OPEC oil during the third quarter of this year, by 500 to 700,000 bpd above current OPEC production, which amounts to 23.5 million bpd.

The minister said that Kuwait's production capacity reached 3.7 million bpd in the past, and it will endeavor to reach this level in the future.

He pointed out that the CIS countries, in particular Ukraine, have asked Kuwait to help them in the petroleum sphere, especially as these countries have good petroleum industries connected with the manufacture of oil pipelines. He said that the corporation [as received] will send delegations to these countries to discuss spheres of cooperation with them.

The minister mentioned that 11 oil wells in the Ratqah area which Kuwait has recovered from Iraq will soon start production. The minister said that there have been fewer Iraqi infiltrations into the Kuwaiti borders since January, and added that these wells are now safe, but need maintenance. [passage omitted]

Oman

Mubarak Says Tehran Aiding Fundamentalist Terrorism

PM1305081593 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 10 May 93 pp 1, 4

[Husayn 'Abd-al-Ghani report: "Mubarak Gives Qabus 'Evidence' of Iranian Involvement in Terrorism"]

[Excerpt] Muscat, Cairo—President Husni Mubarak and Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id held talks in Muscat yesterday shortly after the Egyptian president arrived in Oman to begin a tour of the Gulf states. Informed sources have told AL-HAYAH that Mubarak, who is trying to form an Arab front against international terrorism, showed Sultan Qabus some evidence of Iran's involvement in providing support for the extremists who carry out acts of violence against the Egyptian Government.

The sources said that "the material and tangible evidence" was recently obtained by the Egyptian authorities from confessions made by suspects who belong to hardline Islamic groups, especially after the attempt on the life of Egyptian Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif.

President Mubarak, who chose Muscat as his first stop in his tour of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] capitals, hopes to be able to convince Oman, which has close political links with Iran, of the role Tehran is playing in the growing fundamentalist threat in the region.

The sources say that President Mubarak's task is delicate because Oman had shown no sympathy in the past with the charges linking the Iranians to the increasing extremist movements in Egypt, Algeria, and other Arab countries.

It seems that the Egyptian president does not so much want to open a dialogue or seek mediation with Iran as he wants a clear GCC position regarding the Iranian role.

The sources also said that the Mubarak-Qabus talks covered the possibilities of Omani and Gulf aid for the Egyptian Government in its fight against religious extremism which has benefited from Egypt's economic difficulties. [passage omitted]

Saudi Arabia

Libyan Allegations Over Pilgrims' Entry Refuted

LD1405102993 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0350 GMT 14 May 93

[Text] Riyadh, 13 May [date as received]—A responsible source today made a statement to the Saudi Press Agency in which he said: Citing the Libyan News Agency [JANA], AFP reported on 9 May 1993 that the Libyan General People's Congress had addressed a message to the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, asking him to reject the embargo imposed on Libya and allow Libyan pilgrims to leave for Saudi Arabia onboard Libyan planes and that, in its message, the [General People's] Congress had said that the international resolutions passed against Libya had been rejected by the Libyan people, that the holy places must not be subject to international political changes, and so on.

The source said that, although the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia had already explained to the Libyan people its position vis-a-vis this issue in official public statements, the picture had become clear and obvious to the Libyan people and public opinion and the Kingdom had always and publicly welcomed the Libyan pilgrim on their arrival in Saudi territories—the same as all pilgrims from the Islamic world—we have found that the Libyan regime was still trying by various means via its media apparatus to level false accusations and objectionable allegations against the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, thus attempting to invent flimsy arguments to mislead its people from the fact that no one but the Libyan regime alone was responsible for the prevention of its pilgrims performing that religious duty.

The source went on to say: We are able to substantiate this truth on the basis of the following facts:

1. Can the Libyan regime prove that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has prevented any Libyan pilgrim from performing the pilgrimage duty in the past or the present, even when it concerned the Libyan conscripts, who arrived in the Kingdom in 1404 AH [October 1983-September 1984] onboard two Libyan planes, carrying weapons under the pretext that they had been ordered to come to the Kingdom during the pilgrimage season that year to pursue stray dogs in the sacred places, as they claimed? However, despite the enormity of the crime, the Kingdom enabled them to perform the pilgrimage and visit the prophet's mosque as its guests, after confiscating their weapons.

2. Can the Libyan regime prove that the Kingdom has prevented any Libyan plane from reaching its territories at any time, and will Libyan planes on their way to the Kingdom be able to cross the airspaces of states committed to the implementation of the air embargo Resolution 748 issued by the UN Security Council against Libya on 21 March 1992?

The source went on to say that if the Libyan regime was unable to reply to these facts with evidence, which it would certainly not be able to, why had it then resorted to fallacy, creating problems and false allegations?

We have evidence to refute the Libyan allegations, namely the Kingdom has already welcomed hundreds of Libyan pilgrims this year who have come from various parts of the world onboard non-Libyan planes. Furthermore, a responsible source at the Saudi Embassy in the Libyan capital said on 21/11/1413 AH [12 May 1993] that 5,520 pilgrimage visas have been granted to Libyans to perform their religious duty this year.

The source concluded by saying: The responsibility of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is confined to receiving pilgrims from all the Islamic countries on their arrival in the holy land, to attend to their comfort, care for them, and secure the means of performing their religious duty in ease, security, and tranquillity, and it is not the Kingdom's responsibility to secure the means of transport for pilgrims to its territories from the capitals of their countries. The responsibility for that is that of those countries. With this explanation, again we only want to reveal facts, prevent arguments, and stop futile accusations and revilement.

King To Pay for Pilgrimage of 300 Bosnian Muslims

LD1405100593 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0515 GMT 14 May 93

[Excerpt] Riyadh, 14 May—In consecration of the humanitarian and Islamic role of custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, in supporting and caring for Muslims all over the world, has issued his noble order for hosting 300 Muslims from Bosnia-Herzegovina to perform the rites of pilgrimage at the expense of the Kingdom which will bear all the expenses of their travel, stay [in Saudi Arabia], and return to their country. This was stated to SPA by His Royal Highness Prince Salman Bin-'Abd al-'Aziz, emir of Riyadh region and chairman of the Higher Body for Collecting Donations for the Muslims of Bosnia-Herzegovina. [passage omitted]

Kuwaiti Minister Comments on Bilateral Relations

LD1105135693 Riyadh SPA in English 1224 GMT 11 May 93

[Text] Riyadh, May 11, SPA—Kuwaiti Trade and Industry Minister Dr. 'Abdullah Rashid al-Hajri has described relations between the Kingdom and Kuwait as "a model and an ideal one."

In a statement to reporters, following his visit to the National Saudi Products Center last night, Dr. Hajri said trade relations between the two countries were deep-rooted and said the volume of trade exchanges were big.

He expressed his admiration over the high-level of sophistication realised by Saudi national industries during the last ten years.

Asked about the effect of the Iraqi invasion on the Kuwaiti industry, Dr. Hajri said Iraq's vicious aggression had destroyed the industrial infrastructure in Kuwait, but 70 per cent of this damaged infrastructure had now been rehabilitated.

Asked about the losses sustained by Gulf businessmen as a result of the Iraqi aggression on Kuwait, Dr. Hajri said there was no problem concerning the debts owed to some GCC [Gulf Cooperation Council] countries and their peoples.

Human Rights Committee Leaders Relieved of Jobs

LD1305143193 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1340 GMT 13 May 93

[Text] Riyadh, 13 May (SPA)—In the interest of the public, instructions have been issued to the competent authorities to fire the following persons [members of the Committee for the Defense of Rights Under the Shari'ah]:

'Abdallah 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Jibrin from the Directorate General of Al-Ifta' [body issuing fatwas];

Muhammad Bin-'Abdallah al-Mas'ari from King Sa'ud University;

'Abdallah al-Hamid from the Islamic University of Muhammad Bin Sa'ud;

'Abdallah Bin-Humud al-Tuwayjiri from the Islamic University of Imam Muhammad Bin-Sa'ud;

Hamad al-Sulayfi from the Education Ministry.

Instructions have also been given to withdraw licences for legal, consultation, and other related practices from 'Abdallah Bin- Sulayman al-Mas'ari and Sulayman Bin-Ibrahim al-Rishudi and to close down their offices and branches throughout the Kingdom.

Rights Committee Said Not Needed

LD1305120793 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0600 GMT 13 May 93

[From the press review]

[Excerpt] Riyadh, 13 May (SPA)—[passage omitted] As for UKAZ, it says that if there is any society in this world that lives and practices all worthy precepts, it is this clean Muslim society of ours in which we live.

It adds that if there is a single state in this world which implements God's law, appeals to it, sits in its just shadows, and is keen on consecrating it in all aspects of life, such a country can be none other than the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. And if there is any person entitled to talk about cherished human dignity, it is someone whom God has chosen to live in this land and is honored to belong to it.

The newspaper referred to the clarification yesterday by the Senior Ulema Council of its rejection of the supposed establishment of a so-called Committee for the Defense of Rights Under the Shari'ah in a country which appeals to God's law, and in which the citizen and the resident find the way to justice open without obstacles or the need for middle-men and brokers.

The newspaper says we need no one to speak about rights or to appoint himself guardian of our interest in this matter. These people are simply trying to inflate their importance by talking, and we have had enough of this. There is no one who is ignorant of the motives and goals of these people. The originators of this scheme must learn to fear God and be sincere with the sons of their homeland instead of behaving as tools in the hands of suspicious people who do not wish good things for this country and its people. [passage omitted]

Rights Committee Leader Briefs Diplomats

NC1305140893 Paris AFP in English 1328 GMT 13 May 93

[Text] Nicosia, May 13 (AFP)—The leader of a human rights group set up in Saudi Arabia to the anger of authorities said Thursday he had briefed U.S. diplomats on its activities.

'Abdallah al-Mas'ari of the Committee for the Defence of Rights Under the Shari'ah said he met for two hours Wednesday with the second secretary at the U.S. embassy in Riyadh, Robert Frazer, and another diplomat at their request.

Al-Mas'ari told AFP by telephone that the diplomats were informed of the aims of the committee, which has pledged to fight "oppression and injustice" in Saudi Arabia and secure the release of political prisoners.

He also reported that his son, Muhammad, a physics teacher at King Sa'ud University in Riyadh who served as an interpreter at the meeting, was arrested on Wednesday night by Saudi police.

There was no comment from the U.S. embassy in Riyadh which was closed Thursday and Friday for the Muslim weekend.

Al-Mas'ari is one of six Muslim scholars who set up the committee, which has angered the Saudi royal family and triggered a condemnation on Wednesday from the highest religious authorities in the conservative state.

The Assembly of Saudi Ulemas [Senior Ulema Council] charged in a statement that there was no justification for the existence in Saudi Arabia of the committee, arguing the country was already regulated by shari'ah, Islamic law.

The assembly also warned the committee's members about the consequences of their action. It did not elaborate.

Al-Mas'ari said the warning "could mean that our committee has been outlawed and cannot resume its activities," adding however he had not yet read the statement.

Creation of the committee was announced on May 7 by the London-based Liberty group, an independent organisation which specialises in the defence and promotion of human rights and reforms in Muslim countries.

According to Liberty, members of the committee were summoned Saturday by the Riyadh governor, Prince Salman Bin 'Abd-al-'Aziz, who voiced the royal family's displeasure over the formation of the group.

[Paris AFP in English at 1353 GMT on 13 May transmits a related report which adds the following: "The Saudi government on Thursday stripped seven human rights activists of their jobs, state television reported.

["It dismissed four university professors and a civil servant and banned two lawyers from practising."]

United Arab Emirates

Egypt's al-Baz Interviewed on Mubarak's Gulf Tour

NC1305111393 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0510 GMT 13 May 93

[Telephone interview with Dr. Usamah al-Baz, Egyptian Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, in Abu Dhabi, by Fawzi al-Jundi, in Cairo; from the 'Dialogue From Afar' program; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Al-Jundi] Dr. Usamah al-Baz, President Husni Mubarak began his talks in the United Arab Emirates [UAE] with Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan. What does the visit to the UAE mean following the visits to three other Gulf states? What can you say at the beginning of this dialogue?

[Al-Baz] The meetings the president is holding with his brother leaders of the Gulf states during this tour are important, with regard to the topics discussed and the timing and implications. Special, close relations and ties exist among the leaders and peoples. We picture ourselves in the same trench with these brothers. The president is holding talks with the leaders of the fraternal Gulf states on important issues. They are discussing the situation in the Middle East, particularly in the Gulf region; the efforts being made to ease the tension, end disagreements, and clear the atmosphere; and the Middle East peace process and negotiations. The brothers in the Gulf are greatly interested in what is going on at these negotiations, because they want to achieve the greatest degree of stability and security in the entire region. This issue is of particular interest for the Gulf states.

[Al-Jundi] Dr. al-Baz, following the visit to Oman, Kuwait, Bahrain, and Abu Dhabi, how do you evaluate the results?

[Al-Baz] We assess the results as very positive. President Mubarak and the leaders of the fraternal states he met share identical views. It is becoming increasingly evident that Egypt occupies a special position. There is mutual confidence among the leaders and the peoples. There is also a sense that we are in a state of solidarity, facing the same dangers and challenges, and combining the same resources. The concept of solidarity between us and the peoples of these fraternal states—and the peoples of the Arab nation as a whole—is profound and strengthening daily.

[Al-Jundi] Dr. al-Baz, Gulf security as an Arab responsibility is an important issue on President Mubarak's visit to the UAE and on this Gulf tour. What has been achieved in this respect in President Mubarak's talks with the Gulf leaders?

[Al-Baz] President Mubarak listened to the assessment of the brothers he met. He will listen to His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin- Sultan's assessment of the situation in the Gulf. It will include the issue of security and whether the situation is as it was the last time President Mubarak visited these countries or met their leaders in Cairo; whether stability increased in the area; and whether the danger and tension receded. We are constantly following up the Gulf's views on security in the region, the situation in general, and the direction in which developments are proceeding. We feel the situation is more stable and that the sense of security is increasing. There is a sense of stronger inter-relations. There is a positive assessment of the Damascus Declaration and the importance these fraternal countries attach to putting this Declaration into effect, because it is seen as a basic step toward achieving greater security for the region's peoples.

[Al-Jundi] Dr. al-Baz, observers note an inclination by the Gulf countries to focus interest on the Damascus Declaration's economic section to the exclusion of the security and political section. Did the discussions clarify this issue?

[Al-Baz] No, this view is wrong. The brothers here are interested in both the security and economic sections of the Damascus Declaration. Perhaps the observers got the impression you speak of because the concept of security is not inflexible, but dynamic, changing and developing with changing positions and regional and international circumstances. The more thoroughly we examine this issue, the more these countries view....[al-Baz changes thought]. Security is achieved by assessing two things: unilateral and collective capabilities and the danger of challenge. These circumstances are constantly changing, so the concept of security must be flexible. We cannot continue to view security in light of Kuwait's invasion, but in light of possible developments that might create further improvement and stability. As for dangers from various sources, the brothers will evaluate them. Certainly, we will join them in this evaluation, but of course they will have the last word in the determination. We are interested in being briefed on their assessment and how far it coincides with our idea. They will have the last word because they are the people primarily

concerned with the issue. We also make our views known to them because Gulf security concerns us; it is a basic part of pan-Arab security.

[Al-Jundi] Dr. al-Baz, President Mubarak and Shaykh Zayid Bin- Sultan will no doubt discuss the issue of combating terrorism. Mubarak has also discussed it with other Gulf leaders. What link is there between Egyptian security, Gulf security, and the entire region's security, particularly as there are foreign powers that seek to cause instability and undermine security not only in Egypt, but in other Arab areas?

[Al-Baz] It is wrong to believe that terrorism and the challenges it entails form a basic or major issue in the president's discussions. We view terrorism only from the perspective of the threat it poses to various countries, in the Gulf, and the entire Arab homeland. We believe it is a transient phenomenon and does not constitute a permanent factor in the Arab world. We believe the president is exchanging views with this region's leaders about their countries' domestic and collective security and security in Egypt, the Arab Maghreb, and North Africa. Still, it is not a basic issue under discussion, since the Arab countries can, May God be praised, confront this issue. We believe the danger the phenomenon poses will recede.

[Al-Jundi] Dr. al-Baz, director of President Mubarak's Office for Political Affairs and the Egyptian Foreign Ministry's first under secretary, thank you.

[Al-Baz] You are welcome.

Egyptian Foreign Minister Comments

NC1405083393 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0700 GMT 14 May 93

[Text] President Husni Mubarak and His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates, will continue their talks at President Mubarak's residence in al-Mushrif Palace.

Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa announced that their discussions have had tangible results illustrated by an agreement to double the volume of trade exchange between the two countries, encourage further investment and economic cooperation, and coordinate Arab Gulf issues.

Musa declared that Gulf security is part of pan-Arab security and any discussion of it is a matter that concerns Arabs only. He noted that if any foreign party is to participate in arrangements on this security, it must first obtain collective Arab approval.

Egyptian Information Minister Views Talks

NC1305120493 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0910 GMT 13 May 93

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 13 May (MENA)—United Arab Emirates [UAE] President Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan has affirmed that Egypt, with its role and weight, represents the core of the Arab nation. He said Egypt exerts all its efforts to solve the Arab nation's problems. Shaykh Zayid expressed his appreciation of Egypt's pan-Arab stances and President Mubarak's noble policy.

This was stated by Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif following a round of official talks between Presidents Husni Mubarak and Shaykh Zayid. The talks, which lasted 75 minutes, were attended by the members of the two sides.

Al-Sharif said the talks between the two leaders were characterized by a spirit of brotherhood, frankness, and confidence. He said an atmosphere of amity and understanding prevailed with regard to all Arab issues and bilateral cultural and political cooperation.

The information minister added that President Mubarak said he appreciated the positions of Shaykh Zayid and the UAE on the political, economic, and information levels and their efforts to strengthen cooperation and coordination between the two countries.

Safwat al-Sharif pointed out that the UAE supports Egypt's efforts to implement its policy through harmonious stances and ideas. He said President Mubarak reiterated that Egypt's strength represents the strength of all its Arab brothers and that Egypt's progress and stability serve every Arab.

The information minister said the talks also dealt with several issues concerning pan-Arab security and the peace talks in Washington.

'Large-Scale Cabinet Reshuffle' Expected in Fall

PM1405121193 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 13 May 93 pp 1, 4

[Wafa'i Diyab report: "Cabinet Reshuffle Expected in September; Emirates: Bolstering Federation and National Council to Confront Challenges"]

[Excerpt] Abu Dhabi—The United Arab Emirates [UAE], currently experiencing a big economic relaxation, is witnessing a number of important developments that require effective and decisive handling. There is now much talk in political circles about a large-scale cabinet reshuffle that could take place in September or October, in other words when political activities are at their peak.

It is no secret that this reshuffle was expected to coincide with the revival of the Federal National Council, which is tantamount to a house of representatives representing all the emirates. But it was decided to postpone it as a result of the rapid development of events and escalation relating to the UAE-Iranian dispute over the islands [of Abu Musa, Tunb al-Kubra, and Tunb al-Sughra].

Political sources emphasize that any imminent or future reshuffle is designed to reinforce the federal march, which clearly seems to have surmounted all the obstacles placed in its way. The sources say that conditions and changes which require serious unionist political action require also a translation of the increasing convictions that the federation is the fence and shield.

UAE officials acknowledge the extent of the importance that the Federal National Council attaches to political life in the state, especially with regard to its relationship with the government. Council Speaker Al-Hajj Bin-'Abdallah al-Muhayribi says that the council will not just watch the government's work. It will actually call to account any minister who proves to have neglected his responsibilities.

Al-Muhayribi's statement is in line with the general tendency in the regime and the firm convictions among senior officials, including UAE President Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, that 22 years after the establishment of the federation there is a growing need to draw up a new strategy to safeguard this entity and bolster its facilities. [passage omitted]

Yemen

Socialist Party Leader Defends Merger

PM1305132993 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 12 May 93 p 6

[Interview with 'Ali Salim al-Bid, Yemeni vice president and secretary general of the Yemeni Socialist Party, by 'Abdallah Hammudah in Sanaa; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Hammudah] To what extent do you believe the Yemeni election will help to solve the political problems that existed in the transitional phase?

[Al-Bid] The Yemeni election has a historical link with our contemporary development. By this step we have laid the foundation of the new development process for Yemeni society in all political, economic, and social spheres. And we have extricated ourselves from all the winding and arduous roads experienced by many Arab states and the Third World. The Yemeni People were persuaded to follow this practice in order to adopt political and party pluralism and rid ourselves and posterity of the impression that prevailed in previous stages with regard to power, namely the seizure of power by any means on the basis that the end justifies the means.

We have rid ourselves of putschist thinking, of the idea of eliminating others, and of much of the suffering we have experienced and which many parts of our Arab nations are still experiencing. We now believe that our road is the road of encouraging capabilities and political, economic, and social competition and of seeking to reconcile the interests of different forces. It is a road which enables us to establish new features for our civilization.

[Hammudah] With regard to political competition and pluralism, it is being said that the Political Bureau of the Yemeni Socialist Party, of which you are the secretary general, has decided to merge the two ruling parties. Is that not a kind of contradiction with democracy, since merging the two main forces would create a very huge force that no other party can confront, and in one way or another a return to totalitarianism, as oppositionists say. What is your opinion?

[Al-Bid] Our internal partisan steps are in themselves based on the democratic spirit and on resolving our issues democratically inside the party, taking account of democratic life in society. Decisions in such cases are not made by the party's Political Bureau. They are taken by the party through its various mechanisms. If the Political Bureau makes a decision on any issue, it is a prelude to presenting it to other bodies, and in such a case the issue is not regarded as settled—otherwise how can we look after democracy in society? We take care of what exists in its early stages in order to safeguard the democratic orientation that serves Yemeni society, not the Socialist Party only.

I believe that there are fundamental tendencies in the competition process. They exist here and there, in this or that party. They have various views as regards the interpretation of reality. There is the right-wing tendency, and there are those who represent it. And there is the left-wing tendency, which comprises various parties and forces and many elements. I believe that the center tendency, which I talk about and which I say is the historic bloc, wants this plan to succeed and to be consolidated and strong.

[Hammudah] But that historic bloc is facing only a group of marginal parties which elections have shown to have limited influence.

[Al-Bid] But they have been formed, and there is a basis to the effect that there will be an opposition, whether or not it is formed now. These tendencies exist in life and reality. The most important thing is not to place restrictions in the way to shackle them.

[Hammudah] So what are the guarantees of that opposition's existence and future?

[Al-Bid] Those guarantees are represented in the line decided by our people and which we want to emphasize clearly in our Constitution, so that no one will come after us and think about backtracking on it. There can be no backtracking. Yemen has now set off. And, God willing, you will see the results in the future. Let us walk step by step. We have just started, and any talk about any merger between one party and another or one faction and another is untrue, and we should not run ahead of events. [passage omitted]

[Hammudah] Will the Yemeni Reform Grouping participate in the government? And what stage has been reached in the negotiations with it?

[Al-Bid] The Reform Grouping is a force which exists, and we are thinking about a coalition. I said that meetings have been held between the [General People's] Congress, the Reform Grouping, and the Socialist Party to discuss the common denominators which could bring us together in these circumstances and the basis on which we could draw up the new government's program in the stage ahead.

If we find common denominators to shape the experiment which emerges after the elections—fine. If that

does not happen, those who are not convinced can choose the road of opposition—which is natural. [passage omitted]

[Hammudah] Do you believe that all Socialist Party members will espouse the merger idea? Some people warn that some members will break away if at some stage the party adopts the merger option.

[Al-Bid] I have no fears. The most important thing is for us to adopt the democratic method inside the party. This is because we cannot talk about democracy in society if we do not practice it inside the party. If matters are conducted along that road, everything will be achieved and we will have nothing to fear. We are working to ensure that we will not suffer what we suffered in the past. Because we do not conceal anything, practice severe centralism, or suppress opinions. We leave them to take their course, and what is agreed we implement. We as a party either move forward together or move backward together. We may stop at a certain point until we find our way, but we must do so through dialogue and the spirit of safeguarding everyone, because we need all people. The closest to us are those who live with us. (Then he suddenly said) but you have not talked about the economic and political situation. All your questions are about the domestic situation.

[Hammudah] The domestic situation is the main pillar of all that will happen later. Can we now move to the effects of all that has happened so far on economic development and Yemen's foreign relations?

[Al-Bid] I believe that the elections will create a new climate in the various fields. And democracy means not just elections but using capabilities in their main domains. The backbone of our activities in the government and state is work in the economic field and development.

And that necessitates the availability of political stability, as agreed by people. Without it we would weaken and conditions would deteriorate. There is, for example, the House of Representatives, which is an authority. We should all refer to it, regardless of our political strength and national position. [passage omitted]

Army Reportedly Enters Kurdistan To 'Seize' Harvest

NC1305172093 Paris AFP in English 1629 GMT 13 May 93

[Text] Ankara, May 13 (AFP)—Iraqi army troops crossed into Kurdish-controlled areas of northern Iraq this week to seize the harvest from two villages, a spokesman for the Democratic Party of Kurdistan (DPK) said on Thursday.

Safeen Dizayee told AFP the soldiers on Tuesday moved north of the 36th parallel, where the allies set up a no-fly zone at the end of the Gulf war in 1991 to protect the Kurds against attack from Baghdad.

They approached the Kurdish villages of 'Uwaynah and Gird Azaban "to seize the farmers' harvest", he said in Ankara.

There were no casualties in the operation and Dizayee did not say if Kurdish peshmerga fighters clashed with the Iraqi troops.

A U.S.-led multinational force has been deployed in the southern Turkish military base of Incirlik since July 1991, to protect the Kurds as well as monitor Iraqi air and ground movement in the area. Iraqi troops are banned from an allied "safe haven" zone set up near the Iraqi-Turkish border around the northern Iraqi towns of Dahuk and Zakho.

In another development, the self-declared Kurdish government in northern Iraq has launched discussions with international bodies to issue a Kurdish currency which would be linked to the Iraqi dinar.

According to Fuad Maassum, a Kurdish MP [member of parliament] and former prime minister in the Kurdish government, they plan to print a new currency after Iraq withdrew from circulation foreign- printed 25-dinar notes to replace them with ones printed in Iraq.

Baghdad said the operation was necessary to shore up its economy which has been affected by international sanctions.

Maassum said the Kurdish government, which is not recognised by any country, had approached the World Bank, the United Nations and unnamed Western countries.

Further on Army Incursion in North

NC1305195693 Paris AFP in English 1920 GMT 13 May 93

[By Antoine Jacob]

[Text] Irbil, Iraq, May 13 (AFP)—Iraqi army troops shot and wounded three farmers when they crossed earlier this month into Kurdish-controlled areas of northern Iraq to seize crops, the head of a self-declared Kurdish "government" said Thursday.

'Abdallah Rasul told AFP the soldiers moved north of the 36th parallel, where the allies set up a no-fly zone at the end of the Gulf war in 1991 to protect the Kurds against attack from Baghdad.

He said Iraqi troops have been occupying the region around the village of 'Uwaynah 20 kilometers (12 miles) southwest of Irbil since May 5 and had set up a camp near al-Kuwayr further south at the end of April.

Rasul did not say how far north the Iraqi troops had moved, adding however: "They have not come far up in this region."

"Last week, peasants went to collect their harvest in the 'Uwaynah area. The (Iraqi) army shot at them and three peasants were wounded," he said.

Kurdish peshmerga militants went to protect the villagers "but it was not a big clash" he said.

He charged that Iraqi troops wanted to prevent farmers from harvesting their crops in a region where corn is cultivated.

According to Rasul the Iraqis set up camp near al-Kuwayr "to redistribute their forces."

Fighting between Kurds and Iraqi Arabs broke out in the 'Uwaynah region on March 12, leaving 30 people, mostly Kurds, dead, according to sources from the Kurdish "government" set up last year in defiance of Baghdad. The sources said the Iraqi Arabs were most probably troops in disguise.

Rasul said western forces who protect the Kurds in northern Iraq were informed of the Iraqi troop movements.

British, French and U.S. forces have been deployed in the southern Turkish base of Incirlik to protect the Kurds after their failed bid to overthrow the Baghdad regime at the end of the Gulf war.

Rasul also called for international assistance to help the Kurds overcome a "monetary crisis" resulting from Iraq's decision to withdraw pre-Gulf war 25-dinar notes printed abroad and replace them with notes printed in Iraq.

Baghdad said the operation was necessary to shore up its economy which has been affected by international sanctions. It sealed off its borders for six days last week allowing only Iraqis south of the Kurdish-controlled areas to trade in the 25-dinar notes.

"We call on the international community to protect us economically as it protects us militarily," Rasul said.

He said the Kurds were "dying of hunger as well as shelling."

According to Rasul the Kurdish "government" asked the international community to "allow us to use our share of the Iraqi assets frozen" abroad to make up for the losses caused by Baghdad's dinar operation.

Earlier Thursday Rasul's predecessor, Fu'ad Ma'sum said the Kurds had launched discussions with international bodies to issue a Kurdish currency which would be linked to the Iraqi dinar.

Ma'sum said the Kurdish "government", which is not recognised internationally, had approached the World Bank, the United Nations and unnamed Western countries.

Kurdish merchants meanwhile said they were losing faith in 5- and 10-dinar notes which were also printed abroad and feared that Baghdad would also invalidate them.

UN To Withdraw 236 Guards Protecting Aid Workers

AU1305144493 Paris AFP in English 1420 GMT 13 May 93

[Text] Geneva, May 13 (AFP)—The United Nations has decided to withdraw 236 U.N. guards protecting aid workers in northern Iraq, complaining that it had not received funds to finance the operation, U.N. officials said here Thursday.

The officials said the withdrawal of the U.N. guards would begin Friday and continue until mid-June and they expressed serious concern for the security of aid workers helping the Kurdish population in the region.

The United Nations had requested 500 million dollars in April to finance the guard operation, but no one has contributed to the fund.

UN Guards Begin Pullout From North

NC1405081893 Paris AFP in English 0735 GMT 14 May 93

[Text] Baghdad, May 14 (AFP)—A first group of 50 U.N. guards has left Iraq following a decision by the United Nations to pull out the 236-strong force because of lack of funds, a U.N. source said on Friday [14 May].

The guards, Greek, Czech, Slovak and Polish nationals, were repatriated in two waves Thursday and Friday from the al-Habbaniyah airport southwest of Baghdad which the United Nations uses for its operations in Iraq.

The source did not reveal their destination.

The guards were deployed in northern Iraq to protect U.N. aid workers and escort food and medicine convoys for the Iraqi Kurds, who formed a parliament and a government last year in defiance of Baghdad.

Saddam Thanks Well-Wishers; List of Names Read

JN1305133893 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 12 May 93

[Text] The Presidential Office has issued the following statement:

His Excellency President Saddam Husayn, may God preserve him, would like to thank all the esteemed dignitaries and tribal chiefs, whose names are listed below, who congratulated him on his birthday. His excellency the president is proud of his citizens' generous feelings toward his person. He wishes all of them continued good health and happiness. He beseeches almighty God to grant them success in the two battles of holy jihad and lofty reconstruction, in confirmation of these people's deep roots and in continuation of their civilization and history, and for the sake of life over which the flags of freedom, tranquility, glory, prosperity, and honorable living for all citizens in lofty Iraq and the greater Arab homeland, flutter. May God lead our steps along the path of righteous victory and grant us success to do what pleases him. God is always near to answer those who beseech Him.

[Signed] Hatim Hamdan al-'Azzawi, head of the Presidential Office

Shaykh Anwar al-'Asi, chief of the al-'Ubayd in al-Mishraq

'Ali Judah al-'Awwadi of the al-'Awawidah tribe in al-Najaf

Jalal Muhammad Tahir Junaywih, chief of the al-Shakak tribe

Shaykh Sayyid 'Alwash Muhammad 'Alwash, chief of the al-Ma'amirah tribe in Ninawa

Retired Brigadier General Mukhlif 'Aziz al-Dulaymi, chief of the subdivision of al-Busultan of the al-Dulaym tribe, al-Mahamidah, Ninawa

Rashid Hamad Amin Shirwan, chief of the al-Shirwanaiyah in Ninawa

'Ali Salman Muhammad, chief of the Al Hudayb tribe, al-Qadisiyah, the al-Shafi'iyah subdistrict

Shaykh Khalaf Shnaw Mulla Thabit, chief of the subdivision of tribe of the 'Uthman al-Hasan al-Jasim, Karkuk, al-Hawijah

Swadi Muzay'il Hurayy'i, chief of the albu-Nuwadir, Dhi Qar, the al-Batha' subdistrict

Muhammad Rashid Khurshid Bik, chief of the al-Khawalid tribe in the village of Lablat, al-Ta'mim

Zayd 'Ali 'Abbas, chief of the subdivision of the al-Buhasan of the Bani-Tamim, Diyala, al-Miqdadiyah

Muhammad 'Abbas Hasan, chief of the Sujalat Al Zubayd, the subdivisions of Rumayyis and Sati, Diyala

Shaykh Salih Hasan 'Aziz al-Thawrachi, chief of the al-Thawrachiyah tribe in Irbil Governorate

Kazim Zaydan al-Tamimi, chief of the subdivision of al-'Atatifah al-Busalim, al-Miqdadiyah

Shaykh Faris 'Abadallah al-Faris, chief of the al-Sab'awiyin, the village of Duwaydad, in al-Qayyarah subdistrict

Shaykh 'Abd-al-Kazim Ghali Suhayyil, chief of the al-'Ammar tribe, Babil

Shaykh Fawwaz Mutlaq al-Zahir, chief of the al-Butarif

Shaykh Kazi Hamzah al-Farhan 'Uwayyid, for the al-Mas'ud tribe, Karbala', al-Husayniyah

Kazim Asad Hafiz, for the al-Wad'aybil family of the Khafajah tribe, al-Najaf

Midhat Tawfiq al-Dawudi, chief of the al-Dawudi tribes, al-Ta'mim

Shaykh Ghulam 'Ali 'Abd-al-Karim al-Juwi, chief of the Bani-Lam tribes, Maysan Governorate

Hajj Zaydan Kushan, for the al-Qawasim tribes, Salah al-Din Governorate

'Awwad Hammudi Salih al-Nu'aymi, the al-Nu'aym tribe, the al-Hasayah subdivision, al-Rifa'iyah, al-Ta'mim

Shaykh Mahir Zu'ayli 'Ulaywi al-Hasan, the al-Bu'adil tribe, Tikrit

'Ali Hasan 'Abbud, the Al Taha tribe, al-Samawah

Bashi Musayyir, for the al-Bu'aliyah tribe, al-Samawah

Rasul Mis'ir, for the Al Miftash, al-Samawah

'Atiyah Hassun 'Ali, for the Al 'Alwan, al-Samawah

Kazim Al Madhyub, for the Al Yasir, al-Samawah

Karim Husayn Sabbar, for the Al Sabbar, al-Samawah

Kuwaysin Al Ghazi, for the Al Ghazi, al-Samawah

Sabbar Al Huwaydi, for Al Jassum, al-Samawah

Salim Hulaywi Fahd, for the Al Fahd, al-Samawah

Sa'dun Al 'Ulaywi, for the Al Jabr Al Sa'd, al-Samawah

Sabri Najm al-Sa'dun, chief of the al-Muntafis and al-Sa'dun tribes, al-Basrah and al-Zubayr

Hajj Majid al-Hajj 'Abbud Muhaysin, for the al-Harb district, al-Najaf

Shaykh Ibrahim 'Atiyah Humayd, for the al-Shamma' tribe, al-Ta'mim

Shaykh Rashid Zaydan Khalaf al-Luhaybi, chief of the al-Luhayb, Ninawa

Shaykh Hatim 'Abd-al-Muhsin Jaryan, chief of the al-Busultan tribes, Babil

Shaykh Tahir Khumayyis al-Dari, chief of the Juwayyi' tribe

Shaykh Shakir Ahmad al-'Ashid, chief of the al-Luhayb tribe, Salah al-Din, Tikrit

Muhammad Rida al-Shaykh 'Ali Kashif al-Ghita', al-Najaf

Shaykh Majid Hamid 'Abbas Husayn al-Sakin, chief of the al-Sawakin tribe, al-Rashidiyah

Ghazi 'Ashshu, for the Evangelical congregation in al-Basrah

Shaykh Khaz'al al-Shams al-Hamad al-Zahir, chief of the [name of tribe indistinct]

Shaykh Majid Hamad Khalaf, chief of the al-Karabilah tribe in al-Qa'im, al-Anbar

Shaykh Walid Samah al-Dusari, chief of the al-Dawasir tribe in al-Faw, al-Zubayr, and Abu al-Khasib

Shaykh 'Abd-al-Salam 'Abd-al-Wahhab al-Dusari, deputy to the chief of the al-Dawasir tribe in al-Zubayr

'Abd-al-Karim Jan 'Abbud, chief of the Al Mustafa of the al-Jubur al-Dahamish tribe

Shaykh Khalil Majid al-Hamdani, chief of the al-Hamadaniyin, the village of Mansuriyat al-Jabal

Shaykh Sahib Ibrahim al-Harbi, chief of the al-Hawwariyin tribe, the al-Sa'diyah subdistrict

Shaykh 'Adnan 'Abd-al-Ghani Muhammad al-Harbi, chief of the al-Bu'abd-al-Wahhab, Jalawla' subdistrict

Shaykh Shuja' 'Abdallah Hasan al-Harbi, chief of the al-Rayat tribe, the Khanaqin district

Shaykh Khalaf 'Ali Muhammad al-Harbi, chief of the al-Bunajmah tribe, Jalawla' subdistrict

'Abd-al-Salam al-Sayyid Majid al-Sayyid al-Rifa'i of the al-Rifa'iyah tribe

'Abd-al-Salam Hashim al-Yasiri, chief of the al-Kumays al-'Ushaysh tribes, al-Nasiriyah

Hassaun Hamid Hassun, of the dignitaries of the al-Jubur al-Dahamish tribe

Haniyah Tu'mah Basti, chief of the Al Rumman subdivision of the al-Bushayr, Suq al-Shuyukh

Shihab-al-Din Shaykh Muhammad Shaykh Rashid al-Wallan, chief of the al-Sufiyah and al-Burudat tribes in the subdistricts of al-Siddiq and Diyana, Irbil

Shaykh Hadi Salman Dhahab, of the al-Buhamdan al-Hukaykah tribe, al-Nasiriyah

'Abdallah Jasim Muhammad Abu-Gharyan, chief of the Abu-Gharyan tribe, al-Najaf

Shaykh 'Abbas Fakhir Daghir, of the Bani-Tarf tribes, the city of Saddam

Harbi 'Ali al-Muhaysin, chief of the al-Bu'allu al-Daws of the al-Jubur al-Dahamish tribe

Isma'il 'Abdallah Muhammad, of the al-Kurdiyah tribe, the Khanaqin district

Jabr Muhammad Radi, chief of the Al Radi, al-Nasiriyah

Shaykh 'Abd-al-Jalil 'Atshan 'Inad, of the al-'Aryan tribe in al-Basrah and Maysan

Shaykh Shuhayyid 'Azmi Hamzah, chief of the al-Hamamirah al-Bujayyash, al-Muthanna Governorate

Ni'mah 'Alwan, chief of the al-Jawabir tribe, central Euphrates

Qasim 'Ali Salih, chief of the al-Ka'wah subdivision of the al-Jubur al-Dahamish tribe, the village of al-Makasib

Kazib Khamis Dhannun, chief of Dhannun subdivision of the al-Jubur al-Dahamish tribe in Baghdad

Budaywi 'Asi al-Sinad, chief of the al-Karabilah tribe in al-Anbar

Shaykh Rusayyis Muhaymid Zuwayyid, of the al-Luhayb tribe, al-Sharqa' district, the village of al-Juriyah

Sabri 'Abdallah Hilal, chief of the al-Buhilal subdivision of the al-Jubur al-Dahamish tribe, the village of al-Makasib

Shaykh Mahmud 'Abd-al-Humaysh, chief of the al-Bakkarah tribe

Shaykh Muhammad Husayn 'Ali al-Bachchari, chief of the al-Bu'ali subdivision of the al-Bakkarah tribe

Shakh Ahmad Ibrahim Hamid al-Nu'aymi, chief of the al-Nu'aym tribe in al-Mahmudiyah

Shaykh Mizhir Idham Hadi, chief of the al-'Uqaydat tribe

Shaykh Isma'il Salih Ibrahim al-fasi, for the al-Fasi tribe, Ninawa

Shaykh Ahmad Hasan Firas, for the al-Mushahidah tribe

Shaykh Hatim Mutlaq al-Shayif, for the al-Mushahidah tribe

Shaykh Mahjub 'Ali al-Salim, for the al-Mushahidah tribe

Shaykh 'Abbud Mustafa Khalaf al-Najm, for the al-Mushahidah tribe

Shaykh Muhammad Jawad al-Yasin, for the al-Mushahidah tribe

Shaykh 'Ali Mahmud al-Dawud, for the al-Mushahidah tribe

Shaykh 'Ali 'Abd Kawush, for the al-Mushahidah

Shaykh 'Abd Jasim Khalaf, chief of the al-Khafajah tribe, al-Hawijah

Shaykh 'Isa Hajaw al-Qaysi, for the al-Qaysiyin in Baghdad

Shaykh Ibrahim Isma'il al-Qaysi, for the al-Qaysiyin in Baghdad

Shaykh Rahim Sijil al-Wadi, for the Bani-Zayd tribe in the al-Shatrah district

Shaykh 'Abd-al-Amir Al Sarhan, for the Bani-Zayd in the al-Shatrah district

Mudji Tahir Al Musa, for the Bani-Zayd tribe in the al-Shatrah

Shaykh Khalaf 'Abd-al-Husayn, for the Bani-Zayd tribe in the al-Shatrah district

Shaykh Jasim Dakhil Muhaysin, for the Bani-Zayd tribe in the al-Shatrah district

Shaykh Muhammad Na'aas Atrit, chief of the al-'Asakirah tribe in the al-Shuyukh district

Shaykh Mahdi Saba' Khamis al-Muhammadi, for the al-Dulaym tribe al-Muhamidah, al-A'azamiyah

Shaykh Shallal Fayyad Salman al-Hamdani, for the al-Buhamdan tribe in the village of al-Makasib

Shaykh Muhammad Fayyad Dawud al-Hamdani, for the al-Buhamdan tribe in the village of al-Makasib

Shaykh Salih Husayn 'Ali, for the al-Bunasir al-Fallujiyin tribe

Tahir Jabir Ni'mah al-Musawi, chief of the al-Musawiyin tribe, the city of Saddam

Shaykh Hashim Ahmad Fuhayyil al-Mulah, for the al-Shayahinah in Ninawa

Shaykh 'Abd-al-Ghani Ahmad Fuhayyil al-Mulah, for the al-Shayahinah tribe in Ninawa

Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim Muhammad Qadir, chief of the Baram tribe, al-Sulaymaniyah

Shaykh Talal Wayyid, chief of the al-Bunajm subdivision of the al-Daniyah tribe

Shaykh Farhud Sha'lan al-Sulayman, chief of the Bani-Zayd tribe in the al-Shatrah district

Shaykh Hamid Ahmad 'Ali Karam, chief of the Humayr tribes in Iraq

Shaykh Jawad Zuwayyid Thamir, chief of the al-Sakhrah tribe

Hadi al-Sayyid Fadil al-Nishayfi, chief of the al-Mashayikh tribe, al-Mahmudiyah

Shaykh Kazim Nasir Husayn al-Dulaymi, chief of the al-Buhatim tribe, al-Muhamidah

Shaykh Samir Ra'uf Sadiq 'Ali Shuwani, chief of the Shuwan, al-Sulaymaniyah

Shaykh Ahmad Karim, chief of the al-Lur tribe, al-Sulaymaniyah

Shaykh Nusayyif Ibrahim Jawad al-Dulaymi, chief of the al-Buhatim family, al-Muhamidah

Shaykh Turki Khalaf Minwih, for the al-Buhardan tribe, al-Qa'im

Shaykh Hamdan Hasan 'Adday, chief of the al-Hamad al-Salmani tribe, al-Qa'im

Shaykh Ibrahim al-'Ali al-Nu'aymi, for the al-Nu'aym tribe in al-Ta'mim

Shaykh Khalaf Salih al-Nu'aymi, for the al-Nu'aym tribe in al-Ta'mim

Shaykh Fadil al-'Ibadi, chief of the 'Ibadah tribe in al-Ta'mim

Shaykh Mijdil Al Sha'lan al-Muwashi, chief of the Al Mawwash tribe

Shaykh 'Abd-al-Amir Faysal 'Abd-'Ali, chief of the al 'Isa tribe, Babil

Shaykh Hamid 'Uqlah Hashim al-Hamdani, chief of the al-Hamdan tribe, Suq al-Shuyukh

Shaykh Taklif Rashid 'Abbas Tayyam, for the al-Khaza'il tribes, Babil

Shaykh 'Abd-al-Hasan Hanzal Husayn, chief of the al-Nassar tribe

Shaykh Sayyid Faraj Muhammad Sulayman, for the al-Busallamah Al Shu'ayb

Shaykh Ahmad Muray'i Salman, chief of the al-Nassar tribe

Shaykh Shakir Hamzah, chief of the al-Kallabyin tribe, al-Nu'maniyah

Shaykh Khudayyir 'Alwan al-Juburi, chief of the al-Thabit tribe, al-Mahmudiyah

Shaykh Dakhil 'Aziz al-Darraji, for the al-Budarraj tribe, Baghdad

Shaykh Mizhir Khammash Zuhayyan, for the al-'Ubayd tribe in al-Dawrah

Shaykh Raghib Muhammad al-Humud al-Mashhadani, for the al-Mashahidah tribe, Mosul

Shaykh 'Abd Nasir Muhammad al-Hudaydi, for the al-Hudaydyin al-Busalman tribe, Tall Tibah

Shaykh 'Abdallah Ahmad Husayn, for the al-Hudaydyin al-Busalman tribe, Tall Tibah

Shaykh 'Abd-al-Wahid Muhammad Salih al-Yusuf, chief of the al-Nawafilah al-Busalman tribe, Mosul

Shaykh Husayn Ahmad 'Aziz al-Nimr, for the al-Turabiyin tribe

Shaykh Faysal 'Alwan al-Turabi, for the al-Turabiyin tribe

Shaykh 'Abbud al-Turabi, for the al-Turabiyin tribe

Shaykh Dhannun Futayyir Ruhayyim al-Turabi, for the al-Turabiyin tribe

Shaykh Salih Khudayyir Rahim al-Turabi, for the al-Turabiyin tribe

Shaykh Jamil Mahmud Muhammad al-Qaysi, chief of the al-Nu'aym tribe

Shaykh Rafiq Nadir Husam-al-Din, for the al-Rifa'iyah tribe, al-Basrah

Shaykh Kamil al-Nu'aymi, chief of the al-Nu'aym tribe, Ninawa

Shaykh Yunus al-'Abd-al-'Aziz al-'Abd-Rabbuh, chief of the al-jubur tribes in Iraq

Shaykh Jawhar Muhyi-al-Din al-Hirfi, chief of the al-Hirfiyah tribes, Ninawa

Shaykh 'Abd-al-Jabbar al-Janabi, chief of the al-Rifa'iyah religious school

Shaykh Khaz'al al-Shamsi, for the al-Mushahidah tribe

Shaykh Najih Muhammad Khalaf, for the al-Karabilah tribe

Shaykh Ibrahim 'Ali, for the al-Jubur tribe

Shaykh Midhat Dawud, for the al-Dawudi tribe

Shaykh Ghulam 'Ali 'Abd-al-Karim, for the Bani-Lam tribes

Shaykh 'Abd-al-Kazim 'Ali Manhal, for the al-Busali tribe

Shaykh Fawwaz Mutlaq al-Tahir, for the al-Busali tribe

Shaykh Kazim al-Qaraghulli, for the al-Qaraghulli tribe

Shaykh al-Subayh al-Rukabi, for the al-Badwah tribe

Shaykh Ibrahim Kazim 'Ali, for the al-Shaybaniyin tribe

Shaykh Sabah Jasim Muwazan, for the al-Dalmiyah tribe, Wasit

Shaykh Tariq al-Khayyun, the Bani-Asad tribes

Shaykh Isma'il 'Azar Hasan, for Al 'Azar

Shaykh Jasim Hammad 'Atiyah, for the Bani-Khalid tribe, and Shaykh Muhammad Ibrahim al-Tayyar, for the al-Bufarraj tribe

Saddam's Son Sets Up Critical Radio Station

PM1305143593 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 12 May 93 p 5

[Unattributed report: "Under Supervision of Iraqi President's Son, New Radio Assigned To Criticize Ministers and Senior State Officials"]

[Text] London, Political Studies Center—Arrivals from Iraq have said that a new radio station transmitting under the name "Radio the Youths From the House of Peace" [idha'at al-shabab min dar al-salam] has been broadcasting on a normal medium wave frequency since 28 April, Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's 56th birthday. And that this radio differs from the official radio in that it uses the method adopted by Radio Monte Carlo, a mixture of quick news, music, and light songs.

They also emphasized that this radio, which levels stinging criticism at ministers and senior officials and their performance, is supervised directly by the Iraqi president's son, 'Udayy Saddam Husayn, who owns and supervises the daily political newspaper BABIL and a sports and social magazine called AL-BA'TH.

They also said that 'Udayy Saddam Husayn intends to set up a television station whose aim—like "Radio the Youths From the House of Peace"—would be to mix politics with commerce and carry international and local advertisements.

The arrivals said that "Radio the Youths From the House of Peace" has in a short period of time managed to hold Iraqi listeners' attention and to pull the rug from under the feet of the official radios in view of its courage in discussing issues and criticizing ministers and senior officials.

According to the arrivals, the official radio, which transmits in a monotonous manner, no longer attracts listeners. Moreover, the new radio, which specialises in youth music, light songs, and bold snap commentaries, has become the focus of the gaze of the public, who look for everything new in view of the siege and conditions Iraq has been experiencing for over two years.

While some people believe that the publication of the newspaper BABIL and the establishment of this radio and the television station, which is expected be launched soon, are aimed at absorbing the strong indignation and giving the impression that the Iraqi president has nothing to do with the excesses taking place in the country, others say that 'Udayy Saddam Husayn is working for the future and that his aim is to take possession of the media industry and advertising in the stage that will follow the lifting of the siege—which it is strongly believed will be a stage of opening up, at both the trade and economic level.

It is worth noting here that 'Udayy Saddam Husayn has in recent years taken possession of all first-class hotels in Iraq and most of the shares of Iraqi Airways. And that he has been able to establish a huge fleet of luxury coaches that operate on domestic and external routes.

'Specialized Committees' To Broker Foreign Currency

JN1305152693 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1425 GMT 13 May 93

[Text] Baghdad, 13 May (INA)—Iraq has declared that it will allow specialized committees, which are established in accordance with the law, to possess and deal with foreign currency inside the country.

In a statement to INA today, the governor of the Central Bank of Iraq said that the operations of such companies will be confined to brokering and selling foreign currency. He said that such companies will be entitled to conduct transactions for their account within boundaries that will be decided by the Central Bank of Iraq and within the limits of the company's approved capital, which must be no less than 1 million Iraqi dinars.

Saddam Grants Funds to Parts of Wasit, Babil Governorates

JN1305144093 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 12 May 93

[Text] His Excellency leader President Saddam Husayn has ordered that al-Muwaffaqiyah, Jafan, Wasit, and al-'Aziziyah subdistricts in Wasit Governorate be granted 5 million dinars each. This is over and above his excellency's order that funds be made available for the improvement of services in a number of the central and southern governorates.

An INA correspondent in Wasit Governorate reports that this generous gesture testifies to President Saddam Husayn's concern for the well-being of his people. The funds, he notes, will go toward upgrading and expanding services and the education and health-care sectors, and the development campaign overseen by state officers.

Meanwhile, President Saddam Husayn has ordered a 5-million-dinar donation to al-Kifl subdistrict in Babil Governorate, adding to his excellency's earlier generous gesture that funds be earmarked for the development of a number of subdistricts in the central and southern governorates.

The al-Kifl subdistrict administrative officer told an INA correspondent in Babil Governorate that the money will cover the cost of paving 10 km of roads in the 17 July and 7 April Neighborhoods, renovating a number of buildings—including the health clinic and several schools—implementing water projects, and upgrading agricultural canals.

Three Oil Wells Discovered in al-Najaf Desert

JN1305151693 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0820 GMT 13 May 93

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 13 May (INA)—Three oil wells have been discovered in the al-Kifl area of the al-Najaf desert. The production capacity of one of the new wells is 5,600 barrels per day.

Dr. Talal Muhammad, director of Iraq's Seismological Company, which discovered these wells, has said that a seismological survey of the area was conducted on 6 June 1992. The seismological teams' working schedule includes surveying 269 sq. km, of which 174 sq. km have already been surveyed; the remainder will be surveyed in August. [passage omitted]

Moroccan Envoy Arrives With Message for Saddam

JN1205135293 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1255 GMT 12 May 93

[Text] Baghdad, 12 May (INA)—Abdelhadi Boutaleb, adviser to His Majesty King Hassan II of Morocco and his majesty's personal envoy to his brother President Saddam Husayn, arrived in Baghdad today on a several-day visit to Iraq.

INA has learned that Boutaleb is carrying a message to President Saddam Husayn from King Hassan II concerning relations between the two fraternal countries.

Tariq 'Aziz Meets Moroccan Envoy

JN1205192393 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1830 GMT 12 May 93

[Text] Baghdad, 12 May (INA)—Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz today received Abdelhadi Boutaleb, adviser to His Majesty King Hassan II of Morocco and his majesty's personal envoy to his brother President Saddam Husayn.

The meeting was attended by Khalid 'Abd-al-Mun'im Rashid, adviser at the Presidential Office, the Iraqi ambassador to Morocco, and the Moroccan ambassador to Iraq.

Saddam Receives Moroccan Envoy, Letter

JN1305142193 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1230 GMT 13 May 93

[Text] Baghdad, 13 May (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has received a fraternal letter from his brother His Majesty King Hassan II of Morocco concerning the strong fraternal relations between the two sisterly countries.

Abdelhadi Boutaleb, adviser to His Majesty King Hassan II, handed the letter to his excellency the president when he received him today. Tariq 'Aziz, Revolution Command Council member and deputy prime minister, attended the meeting.

Algerian Education Minister Arrives on Visit

JN1305191593 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 13 May 93

[Text] Ahmed Djebbar, minister of national education in fraternal Algeria, arrived in Baghdad today leading an educational delegation on a several-day visit to Iraq. During his visit, the guest minister will hold meetings with the education and higher education and scientific research ministers to discuss bilateral relations in the fields of education and culture. He will also become acquainted with Iraq's educational march as well as the achievements realized as a result of Iraq's reconstruction campaign.

Vice President Receives Jordanian Party Delegation

JN1305154593 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1430 GMT 13 May 93

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 13 May (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council member and vice president, has affirmed that if there is real international legitimacy, it should lift the siege imposed on the Iraqi people.

At his meeting today with a delegation from the Jordanian al-Taqaddumi al-Dimuqrati [Democratic Progressive] Party under its Secretary General 'Ali 'Amir, Ramadan said what the Iraqis have achieved during the march of construction under the circumstances of the siege shows that they have gained the spirit of initiative, creativity, and determination enabling them to carry out a successful counteroffensive in all its material, political, economic, and moral chapters.

Ramadan affirmed that the project of Arab resurgence, the foundations of which were laid down by Iraq under President Saddam Husayn, will be further consolidated and will spread without the traitors, enemies, and conspirators being able to obstruct it, no matter the tools or the methods they use for this purpose. [passage omitted]

Agriculture Ministry Official Meets Romanian Envoy

JN1305170593 Baghdad INA in English 1425 GMT 13 May 93

[Text] Baghdad, May 13 (INA)—Agriculture and Irrigation Undersecretary Radwan Khalifah met today the Romanian trade undersecretary.

The meeting discussed bilateral ties and means of enhancing them in the agricultural and irrigation fields.

The Romanian official voiced preparedness of his country's companies to cooperate with Iraq in implementing the projects.

The Romanian official had arrived here early today on a several-day visit to the country.

Assembly Speaker Receives 2 British Parliamentarians

JN1305165693 Baghdad INA in English 1615 GMT 13 May 93

[Text] Baghdad, May 13, INA—Mr. Sa'di Mahdi Salih, the speaker of the National Assembly, received today Mr. Tam Dalyell and Mr. George Galloway, members of the British Common House of the Labour Party, who are currently visiting Iraq at the invitation of the Peace Friendship and Solidarity Organization in Iraq.

Mr. Salih expalined during the meeting the dangerous effect caused by 30-state aggression against Iraq and the continuation of the unjust sanction imposed on it and the acute of food and medicine and the increase of deaths among children and sick persons.

The two British congressmen expressed their satisfaction that they have become acuainted with the situation inside Iraq and the tragic conditions the Iraqi people live in as a result of the continuation of the sanctions.

They expressed their determination to work to break the deadlock in the Iraqi-British relations and to put an end to the sanctions imposed on Iraq.

Arabs 'Instigating' Foreigners Against State Condemned

JN1305121193 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0654 GMT 13 May 93

[Text] Baghdad, 13 May (INA)—The newspaper AL-'IRAQ strongly condemns the Arab rulers who are instigating foreigners against Iraq and deem this a daily duty.

In an article contributed by 'Abd-al-Jabbar Muhsin published today, the paper adds: The world's balances have become so gravely disturbed that Jabir al-Sabah has turned into an adviser on democracy affairs, the Saudi rulers have become advocates of human rights, and Husni Mubarak is now termed courageous. Also, courage nowadays requires the person who is plundered to sit with the plunderer, welcome him, court him, and placate him, begging for mere acceptance.

The paper condemns those who profess to be patriots and who brag when they meet U.S. officials, describing them as an opposition against the homeland in support of foreigners. The writer of the article wonders: How then are we to characterize the symbols of patriotism who opposed the United States and Britain and chose to support the homeland and act in line with the people's wishes, such as the late Kamil al-Jadirji, Muhammad Mahdi Kubbah, Fa'iq al-Samarra'i, and Sadiq al-Bassam?

The paper concludes by saying: Despite the ferocity of the monster which massed its resources against Iraqis and their leader, the Iraqis have not displayed humiliation or sadness, nor have they sold guidance for deception. They have continued to prevail, because they are faithful.

The following is the text of the article contributed by 'Abd-al-Jabbar Muhsin:

May God defeat this soul and put it at ease so that it may show indifference. When will it learn from past lessons and come to believe that silence is the height of wisdom and that sincerity is the way of salvation from hellfire? And because it is not content with the mere making of utterances, my soul can only damn all manifestations of falsehood, even if they were to engulf the entire universe. The following quote has been attributed to many people: "A time will come when your dinars will be your idols, and when your women will be your qiblah [direction to which Muslims turn in prayer]. I hope things will not deteriorate further, because O traitors, your dollars have become your idols, and your women have become your qiblah.

God damn this universe, in which the opposition has become an opposition to the homeland in support of foreigners. Otherwise, how are we to characterize the late Kamil al-Jadirji, Muhammad Mahdi Kubbah, Fa'iq al-Samarra'i, and Sadiq al-Bassam? Have they become traitors according to the criteria of the age, because they opposed the United States and Britain and failed to oppose the homeland and act against the wishes of the people of this homeland?

God damn this world, in which Jabir al-Sabah has become an adviser for democracy affairs and in which Saudi rulers have become champions of human rights. God damn this world, in which the balances have been so gravely disturbed that now Husni Mubarak is deemed courageous. Courage nowadays requires the person who is plundered to sit with the plunderer, to welcome him, court him, and appease him, begging for mere acceptance.

God damn this world, in which brokers and prostitutes are swallowing up the nation's wealth while its children are dying of hunger. May God have mercy on the soul of Imam al-Husayn. I imagine him anticipating our current state of affairs when he said: "It is painful for man to envisage the delivery of the head of John the Baptist, son of Zechariah, to an Israeli whore."

God damn this world, in which racist Persians and Turks are deemed protectors of Kurdish rights by some riffraff who do not care about the Kurds' lives, misery, and aspirations as much as they care about collecting money to spend it at the roulette tables.

God damn this world, in which aggression against Iraq has become a cause for relief and happiness to some Arab rulers. Indeed, these rulers view instigation against Iraq as a daily duty to be preformed before anything else.

God damn this world, in which theft has become a mark of excellence and the exploitation of people's misery and suffering a sign of chivalry and great success, in which the hateful illiterate has become wealthier than the one who has mastered the sciences and arts, in which the act of offering bribes has become a cause for boasting, and in which crimes are being deemed chivalrous acts.

I am well aware, just as you are, that the enemies have done their best and unleashed their potentials to undermine this nation's spirit before tearing its body apart. When the spirit languishes, values collapse, criteria disintegrate, codes of conduct are disturbed, and vice rather than virtue becomes the hoped-for ideal sought by individuals and groups, the primary self-preserving immunity system collapses, barbaric winds devastate the components of survival, and the revolution, the edifice being targeted, is devoured.

May God bless the nation which was strongly rocked by malicious parties, and against which all types of weapons have been used to crush it and deny it the chance of proceeding toward the future. Gigantic and overwhelming efforts have been made to fight this nation. Anything other than fighting this nation is deemed secondary and minor by the enemies. Nonetheless, this nation continues to demonstrate patience while experiencing difficulties, to fight while it suffers hunger and deprivation, and to proceed toward the future while its feet are bloodied and while its hands are tied.

May God bless Iraqis and their leader, for a colossal monster called the world has massed all its potentials and resources against them. Nevertheless, they have not demonstrated humiliation or sadness, nor have they sold guidance for deception. Hence, they have continued to prevail, because they are faithful.

Peres on 'Genuine' Effort To Bridge Gaps in Talks

TA1305151293 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 13 May 93

[Telephone interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by Yaron Wilensky and Ge'ula Even—live]

[Excerpt] [Wilensky] I would like yours to be the first reaction from official Jerusalem to the U.S. bridging proposal worked out last night.

[Peres] I think it is too early to do that. In principle, I think such a bridging proposal should not be dismissed, and I think that the Americans made a genuine effort to bridge the gaps, but until we receive the Palestinian reaction I see no need to express my opinion.

[Wilensky] But on which points can you say that Israel is satisfied, which points are acceptable to us?

[Peres] This is not a ruling in Israel's favor or in the Palestinians' favor. It is a genuine attempt to bridge the existing gaps between the Israeli and Palestinian documents. We must also take into account that some points in the two documents are similar, but I think we should withhold an official Israeli response until we hear the Palestinian answer.

[Even] Mr. Peres, can you tell us if Israel has been called on to make additional gestures?

[Peres] The issue is not gestures, peace will not be built through gestures. The gestures can help give the Palestinians more breathing space or to advance. By the way, we are ready to take into account the pressures and the problems facing them, just as they have to understand the pressures on us, but the gaps are of content, not form.

[Wilensky] As it looks to you now, does the U.S. bridging proposal—taking into account the Palestinian and Israeli positions—constitute progress or, as the Palestinians warned, it is aimed at preventing the collapse of the peace process?

[Peres] I do not think that there will be a collapse, I think the Syrians indicated they will be ready to come to the next round and I think the Palestinians also do not have any choice but to come to the next round of talks. The question is whether the current round can end in a joint declaration. From Israel's viewpoint, it can, but there is also the other side in this equation.

[Wilensky] To what extent will such a joint declaration be similar to some upcoming agreement, or is it just an announcement?

[Peres] The very fact that there will be an agreed upon declaration is in itself the first agreement to be signed between us and them, but I can not promise that the Palestinians will agree to it. [passage omitted]

U.S. Criticized for 'Sloppiness' of Mediation Efforts

TA1305133393 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 13 May 93 p B1

[Commentary by Washington correspondent Ori Nir: "Sloppy Mediation"]

[Text] The current round of the peace talks, which ends today in Washington, has strengthened the impression that the new U.S. Administration is not yet fully aware of the implications of its decision to become "a full partner" and to play "an active role" in mediating between the sides. It apparently does not understand that its new role does not only require it to reconcile between the sides, but also to make sure that promises are fulfilled. In short, to be responsible for the execution.

This is particularly important in the Israeli-Palestinian track of the talks, the very heart of the peace process, which is shaken by any minute development in the field. Once again it was proven this week that when the Americans neglect the role of executor a crisis ensues.

The U.S. Administration worked hard to put together a package of concessions and gestures toward the Palestinians, which they delivered on the eve of the resumption of the talks in Washington. When they opened the package the Palestinians found lots of promises but very few tangible items.

Two of Israel's promises were fulfilled before and upon the resumption of the talks: Faysal al-Husayni was allowed to become part of the Palestinian delegation to the negotiations, and 30 old- time deportees were allowed to return to the territories. Later Israel allowed two representatives of the Palestinian diaspora to enter the conference room and promised to make gestures related to human rights in the territories.

However, Israel took its time making good on its most important promise from the Palestinian point of view. The Palestinians were promised a progress report about the review of the legal basis for the deportation of the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activists to Lebanon. They asked for this information time and again, but the Israeli delegates put them off (as they did on previous rounds of talks on other issues). The Palestinians saw their popular support running out. Opposition circles in the territories accused them of "selling out the Marj al-Zuhur deportees for a handful of Saudi dollars," as one member of the delegation said he had been accused of.

Consequently, at the end of last week the Palestinians announced that they were suspending the meetings of the subcommittee on human rights until they received the information requested from Israel. Only the following Monday, after urgent U.S. intervention, Israel agreed to give it to the Palestinians.

The Americans did not bother to splint the shaky leg on which the Palestinians hobbled to Washington three weeks ago. Secretary of State Warren Christopher and

his aides took care to cushion the Palestinians' way to Washington with Saudi dollars which the inhabitants of the territories desperately need. The PLO's severe financial situation as well as the closure created a dire need for money in the territories, particularly in the Gaza Strip.

Hence, under U.S. pressure, the Saudis promised to send a few million dollars (some say $10 million, others say $20 million, and others say more) directly to the territories (not through the PLO), and to renew its modest monthly allocation (about $6 million a year) to finance projects in the territories.

According to members of the Palestinian delegation, the money was to have been deposited in pre-agreed bank accounts no later than 25 April, upon the beginning of the current round of talks. The money never came.

The Palestinians once again asked the Americans to make sure that the Saudi promise is fulfilled, but all in vain. Finally, they stood on their hind legs and created a crisis. The Americans again went into action and promised to pressure the Saudis. It is not clear what these efforts yielded, but the Saudi Government is expected to give in to the U.S. pressure.

The problem is that this is not the first time that the new U.S. Administration demonstrates a certain measure of sloppiness in its mediation efforts. It started with the deal Rabin and Christopher made concerning the deportees, continued with the failure of the U.S.-Palestinian attempt to sign the famous "six-point agreement" worked out by Christopher and al-Husayni, and it reached its climax in the current round of talks.

The latest crisis in the Israeli-Palestinian track of the talks could have been avoided had the Americans taken the trouble to tie all the ends of the rope holding together the package they prepared for the Palestinians. All the diplomatic maneuvers to bring the Palestinians to the negotiating table could have been avoided had they made sure that the Christopher-Rabin deal on the deportees was acceptable to the Arabs.

The increased U.S. mediation efforts in the peace talks enabled the United States to lower the level of officials working on this assignment. On the one hand, this was a welcome development. The work of mid-level officials familiar with the minute details of the positions of the sides who devote all their time to the peace process allowed for a more determined and energetic U.S. mediation. Although the secretary of state was occasionally briefed about what was going on in the talks, he devoted most of his time to more pressing and important issues such as the crisis in Bosnia.

On the other hand, however, this had a serious disadvantage. High-level authority is needed to enforce the deals formulated by the administration. Both the Arabs and the Israelis—the latter, perhaps even more so—understand the language of diplomacy by force. James Baker knew that, and that is why he succeeded in dragging obstinate leaders such as Hafiz al-Asad and Yitzhaq Shamir to the negotiating table.

The former secretary of state would not have secured a deal had he not been absolutely sure that he would be able to execute it, and if somebody were to break his promise Baker would have made sure that he paid the price. Many diplomats who have been involved in the peace process from the beginning, both Israelis and Arabs, have been saying in the past few weeks that a man like Baker would not have gotten himself into such embarrassing situations.

Peres Denies Failure of 9th Round of Talks

TA1405064493 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 14 May 93

[Telephone interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by Sheli Yehimovich—live]

[Text] [Yehimovich] Good morning, Mr. Peres.

[Peres] Good morning.

[Yehimovich] Why has the ninth round of Washington talks failed?

[Peres] To be quite fair, I would not say it has failed. We did not attain the outcome we would have liked. I would put it like this: The lack of success lay in the inability to finalize at least a declaration of intentions or a joint Palestinian-Israeli declaration. On the other hand, several important things happened in this round. We moved from discussions of administrative matters to substance. Three working groups were set up to deal with the three most important issues. In addition, understanding or agreement was achieved in several other spheres.

[Yehimovich] But if we failed to attain at least a joint Israeli-Palestinian paper of understanding, something must have gone amiss.

[Peres] As I started to explain, it is true that some very profound differences of opinion remain unresolved. There is a contradiction between the Palestinian agreement to these talks not focusing on the permanent solution and not dealing with an overall map for the autonomy period on the one hand and their desire to introduce permanent solution components into the autonomy and to seek autonomy based on an overall map on the other. Between us, why do we need an interim solution? Because we all understand that in the current climate, in the current mood, with the gaps between the stands, we cannot agree on a map. For that reason, we said: Let us take a five-year pause during which we will try to change the atmosphere, understand each other, reduce violence, and create trust in order to reach agreement on a map. The crux of the matter is that Israel does not want to govern the Palestinians, and toward that end, it is even willing to give back land. We have not concealed this fact.

[Yehimovich] Mr. Peres, we have been hearing Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin repeatedly state over the past two weeks that the talks have made very considerable progress. Was it an illusion?

[Peres] No. As I have said, there were several things which had never been discussed and which seemed to be impossible to agree on—and yet we did it. For instance, our and the Palestinian definition of the goals of the negotiations are very close. I think considerable—albeit not complete—progress was made in the spheres of water and land. I think a very serious discussion of the human rights issue was launched. Yet obviously the time, the phrasing, the agreement were insufficient for a joint statement.

[Yehimovich] To what extent has the closure and the dire economic situation in the territories created in a tough and determined Palestinian stand?

[Peres] The situation in the territories is undoubtedly reflected in the Palestinian delegates' stands. We must not forget that they are under great pressure; they even get death threats. Whether we like it or not, this is the situation. I think the government was largely been aware of this, and it consequently increased the allocation to the territories and is trying to create jobs in the territories—although I know that end cannot be achieved overnight or even within one, two, or three months. I think that during these crucial months, we must be constantly alert to what goes on in the territories, because in many senses, the territories are the silent partner of the Palestinian delegation.

[Yehimovich] Perhaps we should also ease the pressure, relax the closure?

[Peres] I think efforts are being made in that direction. Since the main problem afflicting the Palestinians in the territories is unemployment, the government has increased the number of permits given to Palestinians working in Israel, and it stands at 40,000 or 45,000 this week; the number may grow a little more. In addition, the Palestinians are faced with internal terror. It is a fact—and one of the current problems—that those who conduct the negotiations with us do not control the terrorists.

[Yehimovich] You spoke of the fundamental gap between the Israeli and Palestinian approaches, but the question is whether Israel could not have done more in specific areas in a bid to reach a joint document. Could we have done things we did not do?

[Peres] Look, I am not sure that any one specific thing would have altered the final result. The lack of understanding derived from the principal issue, not from specific points. By the way, one of the better things is that, judging by both Syrian and Palestinian signals, there will be another round of talks. That means that the negotiations may have stopped but are not over and have not been cut off. To sum up, we must give a lot of thought to how we will surmount the main obstacles this time. This is the main issue.

[Yehimovich] Let us change the subject, with your permission, and move on to the domestic scene. We have heard new voices from Agudat Yisra'el [AY] with regard to the coalition crisis. AY Knesset members [MK's] met with the Gur rebbe, the faction's spiritual leader, yesterday and came away with a vague response. There have been reports, however, that they received his permission to negotiate AY's joining the coalition. Will you be involved in these negotiations?

[Peres] I may be. In any event, it is my unequivocal view that everything must be done to include AY in this coalition, because on the cardinal peace process issue, AY is a partner that will help and support the government in the Knesset, and this, after all, is this government's primary preoccupation.

[Yehimovich] Did you meet with AY MK's over the past two days?

[Peres] I met with them, but I did not conduct any negotiations.

[Yehimovich] Did the prime minister officially appoint you to hold contacts with AY?

[Peres] Official appointments are not the question here; I seek no such official appointment. The prime minister is aware of these contacts.

[Yehimovich] Foreign Minister Peres, thank you very much.

[Peres] You are welcome.

Rabin, Ecuadoran Vice President Discuss Aid

TA1305101293 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 13 May 93 p 2

[Report by Pe'erli Shahar]

[Text] Ecuador supports the peace process and is willing to provide any assistance required to promote it, visiting Ecuadoran Vice President Alberto Dahik said yesterday in a meeting with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin.

The two discussed ways to expand the friendship between the two countries.

Dahik also asked for Israeli aid following the natural disaster Ecuador suffered recently.

Rabin, Ethiopian Premier Sign Cooperation Agreements

TA1205112193 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1000 GMT 12 May 93

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and the visiting Ethiopian Premier Tamirat Layne this morning signed a number of cooperation agreements. Israel is to supply experts and provide training for Ethiopians.

In a joint communique the two prime ministers said extremism has no place in civilized society. Jack Katzenell reports:

[Begin recording] [Katzenell] The agreement signed this morning is for technical and scientific cooperation. The two leaders also signed a protocol for the establishment

of a mixed commission on cooperation, which is to meet in the near future when Rabin makes a return visit to Ethiopia.

Israel is to provide training for Ethiopians in various fields, in Israel and in Ethiopia, and to establish an agricultural demonstration center there. I asked Prime Minister Rabin about the significance of this agreement for Israel.

[Rabin] Israel has a long history of relations with Ethiopia. There were ups and downs. We consider Ethiopia to be one of the key countries located in a strategic part of Africa close to the Red Sea and to the Indian Ocean, and therefore, the reestablishment of good relations is very important to Israel.

[Katzenell] In a joint communique, Prime Minister Tamirat expressed understanding of Israel's efforts to achieve peace, adding that it deserved the support of the world community, in particular Africa. The two leaders declared that extremism of any kind has no place in civilized society, an apparent criticism of militant Islamic fundamentalism.

During the visit, the Israeli side raised the question of the Falash-Mura, the Ethiopian Jews who were converted to Christianity and left behind in Ethiopia at the time of Operation Solomon. In an interview with our reporter Miryam Herschlag, Prime Minister Tamirat said the present Ethiopian Government does not prevent anyone from leaving. The delays, he says, are at the Israeli end. Addis Ababa does not interfere with the Israeli Government's decisions on who can immigrate to Israel and who cannot. He denied allegations that there is discrimination in Ethiopia against the Falash-Mura. [end recording]

Trade Deficit $500 Million in Apr

TA1105100493 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 11 May 93 p 8

[Report by Moti Bassok]

[Text] Israel's trade deficit in April amounted to $500 million. Imports stood at $1.4 billion, while exports totaled $900 million. Industrial goods made up 70 percent of all exports, while diamonds made up 26 percent and agricultural products the remaining 4 percent. After deductions for seasonal changes and excluding ships, aircraft, diamonds, and fuel, the data indicate an average monthly increase of $130 million in the trade deficit for March- April compared with January-February. The increase stems from a drop of approximately $100 million in exports (12 percent) and a rise of approximately $25 million in imports (2 percent).

The Central Bureau of Statistics' data also indicate that industrial exports (excluding diamonds) climbed 11 percent in the first third of 1993 compared with the last third of 1992, following a drop of 4 percent during the latter period. Imports of machines and nonperishable equipment rose by 11 percent and imports of production inputs (excluding diamonds and fuel) by between 4-5 percent.

Northern Border 'on Alert' After Rocket Attack

TA1305195793 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 13 May 93

[Text] A state of tension and alert is being maintained this evening along the northern border and in the south Lebanese security zone. Our correspondent in the north Moti Eden reports that during the day, the terrorists fired two barrages of katyusha rockets which landed inside the security zone very close to the Israeli border. During the day, the terrorists also continued shooting at SLA [South Lebanese Army] positions. The shooting has been going on for two days already.

Rabin Cited on Possible Golan Heights Referendum

TA1305163093 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 13 May 93

[Text] Prime minister Yitzhaq Rabin met this afternoon with three Golan Heights settlers who are on a hunger strike opposite the Knesset building. The three told our correspondent Gil Litman that the prime minister told them that the negotiations with the Syrians are stuck because their concept of peace is different from Israel's. According to the hunger strikers, the prime minister told them it is reasonable to assume that there will be a referendum before a peace treaty which would involve territorial concessions is signed with Syria, unconnected to the coalition agreement with SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim]. The prime minister said that he would not publicly oppose the bill presented by Labor Knesset Member Hagay Merom that a referendum be held before such an agreement is signed. The Golan settlers also said that the prime minister reiterated to them the promise that Israel would agree to a withdrawal on the Golan and not a withdrawal from the entire plateau.

President Weizman Inaugurated

TA1305194893 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1730 GMT 13 May 93

[Text] 'Ezer Weizman was sworn in as Israel's seventh president this evening after taking an oath of allegiance before the Knesset plenum.

[Begin Weizman recording] I, 'Ezer Weizman, the son of Yechi'el and Yehudit, may they rest in peace, do solemnly pledge allegiance to the State of Israel and its laws, and to faithfully fulfill my duty as Israel's president. [end recording]

In his inauguration speech, President Weizman said that the Israeli people must reestablish Zionism's historic aim, the ingathering of the Jewish Diaspora inside Israel. The seventh president devoted a significant segment of his speech to the importance of the peace process.

[Begin Weizman recording] I was given the opportunity to promote the aims of peace when I served as a cabinet minister. At the time, we managed to attain the first peace agreement with Egypt, the largest Arab country, and to thus lay the foundations for the expansion of this peace to include all the Arab countries. We are now in the midst of the peace process. True, it occasionally encounters obstacles and pitfalls. Sometimes we find ourselves facing security difficulties, the kind of which we have recently experienced and still have to endure. Let us not lose our self- confidence. We must constantly tell ourselves and our partners in the process that we are dealing with historic developments that do not repeat themselves, and that we must stick with the process until we reach the aspired goal. [end recording]

State Comptroller Report on Defense Issues

TA1105160193

[Editorial Report] Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew on 11 May on pages 11, 12, and 13 and Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on 11 May on pages D1, D2, D3, and D4 give ample coverage of the State Comptroller's Annual Report for 1992 issued on 10 May by retired judge Miryam Ben-Porat.

DAVAR's Mikhal Sela' reviews the chapters dealing with the performance of the Military Judge Advocate's office and the Civil Administration in the territories.

"The performance of the Military Judge Advocate's Office was flawed, slow, and incomplete, and had a detrimental effect on Israel's image as a state of law."

"The work necessitated by proposed amendments to laws and regulations and new legislation in the area occasionally lasted far beyond the time required by circumstances. The Military Judge Advocate has not updated its working procedures since they were first issued 13 years ago.

"In many instances, forms filled by soldiers upon the detention of stone-throwers and submitted to the military prosecutor did not contain any prima facie evidence of wrongdoing. This phenomenon led to both unjustified acquittals and arrests. In many cases, the work of review officers was incomplete and unprofessional.

"Many legal proceedings were not completed within a reasonable period of time, and left the cases of many defendants pending beyond a reasonable period of time.

"Palestinian detainees were held in custody until the completion of legal proceedings, occasionally for several years, without any follow-up. At the end of August 1992, in the Ramallah area alone, the number of detainees who had been held in custody until the completion of legal proceedings by the military prosecutor stood at 14 since 1988, 22 since 1989, 38 since 1990, and 88 since 1991.

"In January 1993 the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] informed the State Comptroller that the situation had improved: there were no longer detainees held in custody since 1988, and there still remained 7 held since 1989, 15 since 1990, and 80 since 1991.

"In April 1992, there were 174 Palestinians in the Megiddo prison who had been held in custody until the completion of legal proceedings for over a year and up to three years.

"Reviewing the sealing and demolition of houses, the State Comptroller found a gap between the Emergency Regulations and the reality in the field.

"Article 119 of the 1945 Emergency Regulations, on the basis of which the IDF demolishes and seals up houses and confiscates land, gives every person the right to appeal in writing to the local IDF commander within 48 hours of notification of the impending action. Despite repeated instructions to abide by procedures, these were ignored in several occasions and vital data pertaining to the execution of the action were not registered in the appropriate forms.

"In certain cases, buildings were erected on land confiscated on the basis of Article 119, many times after getting building licenses through normal proceedings from planning bureaus and local authorities.

"In many cases when buildings or plots of land were confiscated by security elements, the appropriate warrant was not always issued. Occasionally the warrant was issued retroactively and at times the confiscation remained in effect even after the warrant was no longer valid. In many instances owners were not notified that the confiscation had been invalidated or did not take place at all.

"In May 1992, there were 162 confiscated properties in Judaea and Samaria: records for 86 of them were not updated; 45 were backed by warrants; 31 remained confiscated without valid warrants.

"The report notes that thousands of cases are still pending. Recommendations to close some of them were not followed through, while others remain pending without any review or discussion. In many cases, records about the state of the cases do not correspond to reality and at times there is a gap between the records kept by the military prosecutor and police records."

Reviewing the performance of the Civil Administration, the report notes that "a sufficiently developed sewage treatment system to prevent the contamination of the aquifers does not exist.

"Millions of cubic meters of sewage seep into aquifers or flow into water streams and contaminate them. Industrial waste also flows into streams without prior treatment.

"Numerous plans to set up regional sewage treatment plants aimed at preventing the contamination of streams and aquifers were not carried out because the incumbent authorities did not raise the funds to this effect.

"Many Palestinian villages and towns and Jewish settlements in the area are still using cesspools. The waste is emptied onto sewage tankers which are unloaded in random sites."

The report goes on to say that "local sewage collection systems exist only in six of 13 Palestinian towns in the West Bank, but only in four of them there are processing or recycling installations. In most towns, sewage flows into water streams.

"Of 400 Palestinian villages in the region, only 255 have running water systems for domestic consumption. Villages and small towns have no local systems to collect domestic and industrial waste, not to mention sewage treatment facilities. In several locations, people divert water sewage to the fields to irrigate agricultural crops.

"In the absence of treatment facilities, the sewage of most Jewish settlements is channeled into water streams. In at least five Jewish settlements sewage water flows onto cultivated land, harming agricultural crops. In seven settlements sewage flows into water streams, while in another 10 settlements it flows into streams after initial treatment only.

"In most cases, facilities built to treat local sewage do not function.

"The Environment Ministry does not operate in Palestinian locations in the framework of the Civil Administration. In 1992, the Jewish settlements formed two municipal alliances to deal with environmental issues, one in Samaria and another in Judaea.

"The handling of sewage is flawed both in the Arab and in the Jewish sectors. State and local authorities have been lax in enforcing laws and regulations and failed to seek solutions to control the removal or recycling of sewage.

"The state comptroller points out that owing to the fact that environmental issues are a regional problem, a solution cannot be totally successful without the involvement of the Arab local authorities in the area. No real progress will be made toward a solution of these problems in the absence of full coordination between Jews and Arabs, the definition of clear authority to take action, and the allocation of suitable funds," the report concludes.

HA'ARETZ's Aluf Ben and Eytan Rabin review the chapters dealing with the performance of the defense establishment and Israel Aircraft Industries [IAI].

"In the 1980's the defense establishment invested millions of dollars in two projects designed to improve the IDF's armored corps: Sholef, a cannon manufactured by Soltam, and a joint project with the U.S. Army and an American firm to upgrade the M-109 cannon. However, most of the money was spent in vain, and the IDF continued to use outmoded cannons.

"Sholef indisputably was a high-performance cannon, but the IDF did not want to purchase it because of its high price. The M-109 project was terminated due to mismanagement. Both projects were undertaken without the IDF's clearly defining how they rank in its order of priorities.

"Reviewing the decisionmaking process concerning both projects, the state comptroller uncovered irrelevant considerations involved in the signing of the development contracts: fear of having to pay damages to Soltam and a wish to cooperate with the U.S. Army even when this yielded no results."

The report goes on to note that the M-109 project was terminated "due to technical problems as well as failures in management and in coordination with the U.S. Army." After having spent $32 million, the IDF dropped the project at the end of 1989. "The bill with the Americans has not been settled to this day, and the exact amount of money that went into the project remains unknown."

Reviewing the induction of the Israeli-manufactured Merkava Mk.3 tank into the IDF, the state comptroller writes that its development and production "redefined Israel's status at the forefront of tanks manufacturers in the world and the IDF's status as an army operating the most advanced tanks."

The report points to "flaws in the combat and logistical induction of the tanks and in the training of maintenance personnel." Nevertheless, it notes that "if all the lessons are learned thoroughly and properly the IDF will be able to fully exhaust all the qualities of the tank."

Reviewing the maintenance of the Air Force's Hercules and Boeing cargo planes by the IAI, the state comptroller points to "flaws" in the work and in the "dealings" to this effect between IAI and the Defense Ministry.

"Periodic checks of both planes lagged behind the Air Force's timetable. This was caused by delays in the supply of spare parts (for which both the IAI and the Air Force were responsible), assignment of unsuitable workers, and red tape. However, neither IAI nor the Air Force followed up on the reasons for the delays." The report notes that although IAI set aside a special hangar for this work, due to heavy workloads and crowded conditions "Air Force planes were on more than one occasion repaired outdoors and exposed to the elements." In June 1990 IAI was asked to repair the planes only indoors, but it failed to meet this requirement "despite numerous discussions on the issue between the Air Force, IAI, and the Defense Ministry."

Reviewing the quality of maintenance, the state comptroller points to "faulty work, failure to follow maintenance procedures, outdated equipment, and work based on personal knowledge rather than on technical manuals and manufacturers' instructions. In one case, a plane came out of its periodic check-up with 73 malfunctions, including safety problems. The Air Force demanded that the IAI employees who had worked on the plane be punished, but IAI claimed nobody was responsible for the malfunctions. The plane was grounded for a month and a half longer than had been planned.

"Nevertheless, the Air Force did not carry out a statistical analysis of the malfunctions to ascertain their frequency and prevent their recurrence."

Radio, TV Stations Reportedly Leased to Iraq

LD1305092393 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0700 GMT 12 May 93

[Text] Kuwait, 12 May 1993 (KUNA)—The Kuwaiti newspaper AL-QABAS says the Jordanian authorities have leased the Iraqi regime one of its radio stations through which Baghdad radio will relay its broadcasts to Europe and North Africa. In a report it attributes to private sources, the paper says that a Jordanian short-wave radio will be leased out for three hours a day. It says the Jordanian authorities have given the Iraqis a 10-kilowatt television transmitter for beaming broadcasts to Kuwait and that the transmitter has been installed at the summit of Mount Sanam near the Iraq-Kuwaiti border.

'Linkage' Between U.S. Aid, National Policies Rejected

JN1305144993 Amman AKHBAR AL-USBU' in Arabic 13 May 93 pp 1, 18

[Excerpt] A responsible Jordanian source has asserted that Jordan categorically rejects any conditional aid, noting that Jordan's political history confirms that Jordan has always followed this approach in its foreign policy, whether toward the United States or other nations.

Speaking to AKHBAR AL-USBU' on condition of anonymity, the source said that during U.S. Secretary of State Christopher's visit to Amman, the Jordanian leadership rejected any linkage between U.S. aid to Jordan and Jordan's evolving democratic process. The source added that Jordan would never take orders from the White House, and that Jordan's domestic and foreign policy is quite clear.

The source affirmed that Jordan's democracy emanates from the Hashemite leadership's belief in the need for democracy to prevail. Democracy for the Jordanian leadership, government, and people is a way of living, and Jordan does not expect any reward for it. Jordan also refuses to link democracy to foreign aid because the value of democracy and human rights is higher than any amount of aid. The Jordanian Constitution has affirmed the value of democracy and human rights since it first appeared. The fact that democracy is flourishing at this stage in particular is because the Jordanian community has matured enough to begin practicing it, the source maintained.

The source added that Jordan would not allow anyone to cast doubt on its democratic process. Jordan does not view democracy as a daily order issued by the White House to be carried out in Amman, since Jordan would never tolerate foreign intervention.

The source noted that the attempts of the influential Zionist lobby in the U.S. Administration to disturb Jordan's relations with Iraq or with other Arab countries have come up empty. This prompted the Zionist lobby to use its media arms to harm Jordan and its Arab ties.

The Jordanian source's statement is in response to a report prepared by the U.S. State Department, which is controlled by the Zionist lobby, linking economic aid to Jordan and Washington's political support to a package of domestic measures and to Jordan's stand on the Middle East crisis and other international issues. [passage omitted]

Correction to U.S. Reaction to Kuwait 'Lie' Criticized

JN1205131993

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "U.S. Reaction to Kuwait 'Lie' Criticized," published in the 12 May Near East & South Asia DAILY REPORT, pages 39-40.

Column one, last paragraph, last sentence make read-...nation that does not chase dead people... (supplying missing word "not")

Futher Reportage on Talks, Israeli Document

Buwayz: Published Proposal 'Inaccurate'

NC1305193693 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1900 GMT 13 May 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz has said that the ninth round [of Arab-Israeli peace talks] should justify holding a 10th round.

Addressing the Islamic Center this evening, he said the Israeli negotiator is fierce and shrewd and described the next two days as very important to determine the future of the negotiations. He noted new indications suggesting that the current process of negotiations is serious and said the regional and international atmosphere contribute to reaching some kind of outcome. He added that what was published about the Israeli proposal is inaccurate.

Buwayz on Position on Talks

NC1405060193 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0430 GMT 14 May 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz said yesterday that the ninth round of peace negotiations produced no results. Speaking at the Islamic Center in 'A'ishah Bakkar, he said: The ninth round should have produced sufficient results to justify holding a 10th round, but so far the ninth round has not produced any results. He added: The developments that took place during the ninth round will make our participation in the 10th round difficult and will demand much effort and assurances outside the framework of the negotiations.

Referring to the Israeli document to Lebanon, Buwayz maintained that it contained some new elements, but was less than a proposal, and less than an integral and clear idea. He added: We did not describe this proposal as final and acceptable so that we could regard it as positive. Before this paper, we had heard nothing about UN Resolution 425. The Israeli delegation always refrained from mentioning this resolution.

Buwayz said that the English text of the document does not refer to Lebanese territory or the Lebanese territory, contrary to the published version, which Buwayz described as forged and inaccurate [sentence as heard]. Buwayz added that in its reply to this document, Lebanon demanded that Israel acknowledge the need to implement Resolution 425 and to withdraw completely from all Lebanese territory. He said this view is nonnegotiable and opens the way for a second view that all detainees held in Israeli prisons and inside Lebanese occupied territory should be released. He noted that this second view permits consideration of what is called a military committee. The terms of reference of this committee are clear and defined; they are proposing a timetable for the implementation of Resolution 425 and the repatriation of the Lebanese detainees.

Ministers on Document

NC1405102893 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 0900 GMT 14 May 93

[Text] The publication of the Israeli document continues to be a subject of much comment. Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz has affirmed that the publication of the Israeli document is harmful and affects the credibility of Lebanon and the negotiating delegation. He said: We might pay a price in the sense that no documents would be handed over to us, or that from now on verbal discussions will take place without written documents. He said that an investigation has been initiated at the Foreign Ministry to determine how this document was obtained.

Justice Minister Bahij Tabbarah has said that what happened should be clear. We are in the process of difficult, delicate, and vicious negotiations with an enemy who daily shells our villages in the south. Our children are daily wounded, and the hospitals are full. We have a delegation that is conducting negotiations. We therefore must stand behind our delegation, which receives its instructions from the government and negotiates on behalf of Lebanon. Tabbarah added: The subject of the negotiations is secret, and every document in the negotiation file is stamped secret. The law bans their publication, just as it bans the publication of the minutes of the Cabinet and the parliamentary committees' sessions. Tabbarah also noted that the Attorney General's Office has instructions to supervise these matters with the necessary strictness, adding that he has given instructions to the attorney general to carry an investigation to determine how this document was leaked.

Further Reportage on AL-SAFIR Closure

Minister Denies Involvement

NC1305123693 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1030 GMT 13 May 93

[Text] Information Minister Michel Samahah has denied a report by L'ORIENT-LE JOUR newspaper this morning that the decision to suspend AL-SAFIR was made on the basis of instructions issued by himself and Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri. Minister Samahah said this report is totally unfounded. The Information Ministry had absolutely nothing to do with referring the AL-SAFIR newspaper to court. This was done on the basis of a decision by the appropriate judicial authority.

Media Groups Criticize Closure

NC1305125193 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1045 GMT 13 May 93

[Excerpt] The Press and Editors Associations have stated that the suspension of AL-SAFIR prior to the issuance of any ruling against it constitutes a serious threat against the freedom of press and expression in Lebanon.

In a statement issued at the end of a meeting today that lasted two and one-half hours, the two Associations called on the authority to reverse its decision and to allow the paper to reappear immediately. The meeting

was attended by the two Associations' members. Press doyen Muhammad al-Ba'lbakki read out the statement in the presence of Information Minister Michel Samahah.

The press doyen said that the meeting was held in view of the current serious situation which constitutes a threat against public liberties in Lebanon. He said that the conferees discussed the possibility of observing a strike which will be determined in light of contacts to be held with officials about reversing the decision. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister Urges U.S. Pressure on Israel

PM1305104793 Riyadh AL-RIYAD in Arabic 9 May 93 p 32

[Interview with Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz by unidentified correspondent in Beirut; date not given]

[Excerpts] [AL-RIYAD] The parties to the Arab-Israeli conflict have on several occasions expressed their desire for peace, but we note a hesitation in the Lebanese position, and it has been announced that Lebanon will be the last state to sign an agreement with Israel. How do you justify this fear?

[Buwayz] There is no hesitation in dealing with the peace conference issue. On the contrary, the Lebanese position is characterized by being unified, compared with the past. But the Lebanon-Israel problem raises some issues which are perhaps difficult to understand. Lebanon deals with the peace issue through two axes: one which concerns it and is based on the problem of Israel's occupation of Lebanese territories in the south and in west al-Biqa'. Thus it deals with this issue under the umbrella of Resolution 425, which is clear and unequivocal and cannot be subject to interpretation. It contains the mechanism of its implementation as regards the withdrawal process. Lebanon's position is to demand that Israel implement Resolution 425, which is included in the peace conference terms, in order to discuss and schedule this implementation. When that is done, nothing prevents Lebanon—together with the other Arab states—from entering the process of discussing the peace process with all the political issues it involves, including the Palestinian issue. [passage omitted]

[AL-RIYAD] Will the United States put pressure on Israel now that it has announced its wish to play the role of a "full partner"?

[Buwayz] I hope that the United States and the U.S. Administration will realize that the Middle East region, especially after the Gulf war, is going through a phase of despair, concern, and pessimism over the way the Arab issue is dealt with. We in the region believe that there is a defect in the method of dealings at the level of international politics. And there is a defect in the Security Council: It sometimes deals sharply and harshly with some states and at other times deals leniently with Israel. I believe that the U.S. Administration is aware of this reality and that the United States as a superpower could play the role expected of a superpower. We mean the role of a fair, just state that is committed to international law. [passage omitted]

[AL-RIYAD] Does the issue of the prisoners and detainees represent an obstacle to progress in the talks between the Lebanese and Israeli sides? And is Israel demanding the release of an Israeli pilot held in Lebanon?

[Buwayz] With regard to the Lebanese detainees, of course that issue represents a major obstacle. Because we are demanding the release of all those Lebanese citizens, while we hear Israel sometimes saying that we have nothing to do with them. At other times it uses them for maneuvering. The detainees' return represents a basis for progress in the peace process. As for the Israeli pilot, we have no knowledge or information about the fate of this pilot. He was shot down during the war and during a state of chaos in Lebanon. The state organs did not exist at the time to follow up the matter. The pilot is not being held by the state, nor does the state know anything about him at all. We cannot say whether he is alive or dead or where he is. [passage omitted]

UAE Businessmen Agree To Invest in Lebanon

NC1305144193 Paris AFP in English 1319 GMT 13 May 93

[Text] Abu Dhabi, May 13 (AFP)—United Arab Emirates (UAE) businessmen have agreed to invest in post-war Lebanon, taking advantage of an influx of international aid for reconstruction, they said Thursday.

The agreement was reached during a visit to Lebanon last week by a 24-member delegation from the UAE contractors' association, which groups most building companies in the oil-rich Gulf country.

Its chairman Ahmad Balhasa, who headed the delegation, said they had discussed investment opportunities with President Ilyas al- Hirawi, Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri and other Lebanese officials and businessmen.

"During the visit, some members of the delegation made intensive contacts there," he said in a statement to AFP. "Such contacts have resulted in serious initiatives for investment and establishment of companies."

Al-Hariri toured Gulf states earlier this month to seek aid for post-war rebuilding, which he said would cost nearly 10 billion dollars. The tour ended with promises of assistance from the region.

Saudi Arabia and Kuwait have already provided nearly 140 million dollars of the one billion dollars which Lebanon has received from regional and international parties.

But Beirut hopes Gulf governments will honour a pledge to create a two-billion-dollar fund for reconstruction, following Lebanon's 1975-1990 war.

"The problem is that the Lebanese government can not ensure the budget needed for rebuilding. So it is seeking foreign aid," al- Hariri told the UAE weekly magazine AL-SHURUQ on Thursday.

"Ensuring such aid requires 10 years because according to initial estimates, we need 10 billion dollars. It is not an easy sum at all."

Balhasa said Lebanon had exempted Gulf citizens from visas to attract investors and tourists, while al-Hariri promised to consider reducing taxes on imports and income for investors.

Islamic Jihad Denounces Ruling on Embassy Bombing

NC1405072893 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 14 May 93

[Text] Islamic Jihad is displeased with the Lebanese decision to repeal the military court's ruling on including the bombing of the U.S. Embassy in Beirut under the Amnesty Law.

Munif 'Uwaydat, attorney general at the Court of Appeals, prepared the request for repealing the military court's standing ruling in the case of the bombing of the U.S. Embassy on 18 April 1983, which left 64 people dead and 123 others wounded. The crime was regarded as political and comes under the Amnesty Law.

The Military Court of Appeals has repealed the ruling, maintaining that crimes committed against foreign diplomatic missions are not covered by the Amnesty Law.

The Islamic Jihad Organization has denounced the Lebanese authority's submission in the face of some colluding parties and called on all enlightened officials to respect the people's will and place the people's interests above those of their enemies. It called on them to open the files of the ugly massacres committed by the United States against the people.

Coast, Border Antismuggling Measures Continue

NC1305182593 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 13 May 93

[Text] A military source has announced the following:

In continuation of the joint security measures launched by the Lebanese Army and the Syrian Armed Forces operating in Lebanon and in implementation of the decision to end all smuggling operations along the Lebanese-Syrian border and on the northern Lebanese coast and chase and arrest the smugglers, Lebanese and Syrian forces have dismantled several fisherman jetties that have been known for involvement in smuggling. Land and sea patrols are being operated on the north coast.

As of yesterday, in al-Biqa' Syrian Arab Forces have closed down all roads and paths used for smuggling along the Lebanese-Syrian borders. The measure applies to the area lying between Ruwaynah and Rashayya. Shops located in the area and known for involvement in smuggling have been closed.

Resistance Queries Security Moves in South

NC1305031093 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 4 May 93 p 2

[Article by Ibrahim al-Amin: "Circles Close to Resistance Query Significance of Security Measures and Their Connection With Negotiations. No Prominent Progress in the Talks and New Interpretations of the 'Full Partner' Role"]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] The Palestinian side is feeling some satisfaction with the signals coming from Israel about the return of the Palestinians deported since 1967 or the formation of the human rights committee. But reports about the first week of meetings between the Lebanese and Syrian sides and the Israelis in Washington indicated no progress or Israeli ideas to break the deadlock. The reports added that Lebanon has started to discuss "fundamental issues" relating to the situation in the occupied areas, the detainees in Israel's prisons, and the proposal to establish a bilateral military committee if Israel recognizes the principle of withdrawal.

Informed sources said that when Damascus heard officially from Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz about this proposal, it saw in it nothing that could strengthen the position of the Lebanese negotiator, because waiting for Israel to declare its acceptance of Resolution 425 will not activate the negotiations; it will only make Lebanon pay an additional price for its implementation. The sources stressed that in meetings with Syrian officials, the issue of armed resistance was stressed as an option that should be defended as well as the need not to enter into any bargaining over it, particularly after it has become certain to some circles in Beirut that one of the subjects that will be discussed by the joint military committee—if it is formed—is that of security arrangements that will "protect the safety of the Israeli soldiers while they are ready to implement and carry out the decision to withdraw."

Officials from circles that have links with the resistance have informed Syrian ministers and officials of new moves by the Lebanese Army and some official security organs in the south and that these moves imply that steps will apparently be implemented against the resistance and resistance fighters. These moves included numerous reconnaissance patrols by the official security forces, covert and overt, undertaken in vehicles and by civilian elements. The patrols involved areas known to be strongholds of the resistance fighters or the dirt roads that these fighters use to enter the occupied areas. These officials have heard assurances that these measures did not target them and were only meant to strengthen the legitimate security presence in the villages next to the occupied strip where the Army cannot deploy directly.

A minister concerned with the situation in the south has stated that no one in the regime has discussed the issue of resistance for some time. But Western diplomats, led by U.S. Ambassador Ryan Crocker, have stressed in several meetings with Lebanese officials the need for the state to withdraw the weapons of "southern militias," meaning the Islamic resistance elements. [passage omitted]

Informed sources have said that the meetings held in Damascus and Cairo [by the cordon states' foreign ministers] came out with new interpretations of the U.S. role in the negotiations. Some believe Washington's declaration that it is a full partner will commit it to take steps to prevent the negotiations from stopping and also to prevent any setbacks in the internal situations in the negotiating countries. These setbacks will not be limited to internal security or economic situations. [passage omitted]

But this interpretation of the full partner role was not enough to convince the Arabs that the United States has a special role in the coming rounds of talks. Some Arabs have given a different interpretation of this role, which is summed up as follows:

The United States' need to achieve progress in these negotiations so that they will not harm the region has prompted President Bill Clinton's administration to agree with Yitzhaq Rabin's government on a pattern for the expected Israeli concessions in the negotiations on condition that the United States does not exert direct pressure during the talks, but leaves the Arab and Israeli sides to achieve whatever progress they can. In case of differences, the full partner will then intervene to impose a concept for negotiations that does not deviate from the framework of the principal U.S.- Israeli agreement. According to this interpretation, Israel will lose nothing; it will benefit from the opportunity of achieving whatever progress it can with the Arab side during the negotiations. If this does not happen, then the most concessions it will make will not go beyond those it is committed to in the agreement with the United States. The latter will benefit too, because it will become a full partner whose presence is demanded by the Arab side—a presence that will not be a nuisance for the Israeli side.

Resistance Reports 'Massive' Israeli Reinforcements

NC1405071193 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0530 GMT 14 May 93

[Text] The Martyr Yusuf 'Awadah Group of the faithful resistance detonated an explosive device yesterday afternoon under a joint mechanized patrol of the Israeli enemy and its agents as it traveled along the road to the al-Qantarah position. An M-113 troop carrier was destroyed and its passengers killed or wounded.

In the meantime, another group attacked the al-Qantarah position and the area surrounding the site of the first operation, inflicting more enemy casualties. The enemy responded by directing indiscriminate fire at adjacent villages.

The faithful resistance has reiterated that jihad is the only viable approach to liberating all the usurped lands. It called on the Lebanese authorities to support the villages located at the front lines and to speed up consideration of the detainees' demands instead of occupying themselves with gagging mouths and confiscating freedoms.

Meanwhile, Zionist warplanes intensified their reconnaissance sorties over the south. According to security reports, the enemy planes conducted intensive sorties over Iqlim al-Tuffah, flying as far as the al-Nabatiyah township in the central sector [of the border strip].

Security reports note massive Israeli reinforcements in the occupied strip. Hospitals north of the border strip have been evacuated. Reports add that the national and Islamic Resistance reinforced positions in the liberated areas to check any fresh Zionist aggression against the liberated villages.

Foreign Minister Receives French Envoy, Message

JN1305183293 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 13 May 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' this morning received Jean-Claude Cousseran, the new French ambassador, who handed him a copy of his credentials as France's new ambassador to the Syrian Arab Republic.

During the meeting, Cousseran conveyed a message from French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe to Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'. In his message, the French foreign minister affirmed the French Government's eagerness to continue the regular dialogue and develop cooperation between Syria and France in the service of both countries' common policies. During the meeting, discussions also dealt with the peace process and the ongoing bilateral talks in Washington.

Defense Minister Addresses Graduation Ceremony

JN1305171893 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 13 May 93

[Excerpts] Under the patronage of struggler President Hafiz al-Asad, commander in chief of the Army and the Armed Forces, a graduation ceremony was held this morning for a class of commanding officers of various military corps, marking the completion of their training class covering various theoretical, practical, military, and political skills and education.

Representing the president in patronizing the ceremony was Lieutenant General Mustafa Talas, deputy commander in chief, deputy prime minister, and defense minister. The ceremony was attended by Staff Brigadier General Muhammad Tariq al-Khadra', chief of staff of the Palestinian Liberation Army, a number of senior General Command and field officers, directors of the military colleges and institutes, a number of Arab and foreign military attaches, and a host of invitees. [passage omitted]

Amid a storm of applause and shouts of Long Live Struggler President Hafiz al-Asad, the lieutenant general delivered a speech at the beginning of which he conveyed leader struggler Hafiz al-Asad's greetings to the graduating officers and wishes for them to successfully fulfill the noble militant tasks assigned them by our people and our great party, the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party. [passage omitted]

The lieutenant general continued: Your graduation today coincides with a delicate and extremely complicated stage in our pan-Arab struggle against forces of evil and aggression. It is a stage of countering Israeli arrogance through diplomatic channels to prevent it from achieving its objectives and its expansionist aspirations in the region, as well as to force it to expressly acknowledge Arab rights and comply with the will of the international community.

The lieutenant general affirmed: Al-Asad's Syria, which realizes the gravity of the Zionist game, called and continues to call for effective Arab solidarity. When they declare by words and deeds their adherence to a just, comprehensive peace and affirm their sincere desire for it, the Arabs would only be expressing their adherence to their nation's pan-Arab constants and to their full legitimate rights without compromising them or relinquishing one inch of their occupied territories. He said: The Arabs hope that the international community, and the United States in particular, will face up to the responsibility of preventing the aggressor from persisting in his aggression and will support the rights of oppressed peoples. [passage omitted]

Israel's Seriousness About Peace Questioned

JN1405110093 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 14 May 93

[Press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Ninth Round and the Israeli Position," the newspaper AL-BA'TH says: It is true that from time to time Israel announces that Resolutions 242 and 338 constitute the basis for the peace process, but it is also true that when the issue of how to implement these two resolutions is discussed, Israel resorts to raising very unimportant issues that have nothing to do with the crux of the conflict. Every time the issue of Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories is discussed as a basic precondition to achieve a just and comprehensive peace, Israel evades this.

The paper stresses that this shows that Israel is not serious about peace, and proves that by joining the peace talks, Israel wants to gain more time to impose the policy that the status quo is actually a fait accompli, not only on the Arabs, but also on the entire international community.

AL-BA'TH affirms that the ninth round of the peace talks has decisively renewed the Arabs' credibility, especially since they are acting very seriously to achieve a just and comprehensive peace, and since all the working papers and ideas they have presented show their true desire to see the region enjoying peace, security, and stability. This round has again revealed that Israel has no desire for a just and comprehensive peace. Nor does its work to achieve it. Had it been otherwise, Israel would have at least responded to what is included in Resolutions 242 and 338, and committed itself to implementing them as a necessary step to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the region.

On the same subject, the newspaper AL-THAWRAH says: The ninth round of the peace talks in Washington has not achieved any progress that could have paved the way for optimism toward breaking the deadlock which characterized the previous eight rounds of the peace process, or creating new prospects for the peace process to make it achieve its objective of realizing a just peace based on the full implementation of the resolutions of the international legitimacy. This is because the Israeli side is still maneuvering, cheating, and procrastinating in an attempt to gain time and deprive peace of its basic contents and the principles on which it is based.

The paper stresses: Israel has continued to do so because it is thus far not ready to accept peace in accordance with the resolutions of the international legitimacy, and because it also wants an incomplete peace based on the Israeli forces' partial withdrawal from the occupied territories instead of a full withdrawal.

The paper notes: Had Israel been serious about achieving a just peace and ready to meet all its obligations, it would have abandoned the policy of procrastination and prevarication and playing with time; frankly announced its full acceptance of the full implementation of UN Resolutions 242 and 338—doing away with erroneous interpretations of their clauses and provisions and attempting to circumvent the principle of the peace for land formula; and recognized the Palestinian people's legitimate rights.

Afghanistan

Captors Free Three European Diplomats

BK1405001493 Hong Kong AFP in English 2123 GMT 13 May 93

[Text] Quetta, Pakistan, May 13 (AFP)—Afghan kidnappers released "unconditionally" three European diplomats late Thursday from three weeks in detention in a border township, officials said.

The diplomats were handed over to Pakistani authorities at Chaman on the Pakistan side of the border, they said, adding they would arrive in Quetta, capital of southwestern Baluchistan Province Friday.

Jack Dodds of Britain, Stephen Elhert of Germany and Gert Piening of the Netherlands were kidnapped by a group from the powerful Nurzai tribe on a road near the Afghan border town of Spin Boldak on April 23 after entering Afghanistan for an unexplained trip. Their Pakistani companion, Sardar Saadat Ali Hazara, was also freed.

Diplomatic sources in Islamabad said the men, all drug liaison officers in their respective missions, were all now "safe and sound."

A British diplomat said the "British Government is delighted by their release. We are grateful to Pakistani authorities and all those who have contributed to the successful result."

Dodds works as a second secretary at the deputy high commission in Karachi.

The diplomats were held in Spin Boldak by the Nurzai group, which had demanded the release of two of its tribesmen arrested by Pakistani authorities on gunrunning charges.

The officials here said the release of the European diplomats was unconditional. No deal involving any ransom payment or exchange of detainees was made, they said.

Two letters sent to the three men's embassies in Islamabad implied they were, at least at the start of their detention, held under harsh conditions—chained in a cave and short of food and water. Food, clothes and medicine were later sent to them through an intermediary of the Pakistani authorities.

A local commander from the Nurzai tribe, belonging to the radical Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party] faction of Golboddin Hekmatyar, was reportedly involved in the kidnapping. But, the Hezb leadership had condemned the action and Hekmatyar sent instructions to his colleagues to help secure the unconditional release of the diplomats.

The Nurzai is suspected of involvement in drug trafficking.

Groups Clash in Kabul; 1,000 Casualties Reported

BK1305135093 Hong Kong AFP in English 1146 GMT 13 May 93

[By Terence White]

[Text] Kabul, May 13 (AFP)—Fierce fighting Wednesday and Thursday between rival factions of Afghanistan's crumbling Islamic government left up to 1,200 people dead or injured, including one killed and 11 hurt when shells hit a Red Cross hospital.

A spokesman of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) said that Wednesday's tally of 576 hospital admittances could be expected "to double" Thursday, to "between 800 and 1200."

Afghan Defence Ministry forces meanwhile launched a fresh thrust into south Kabul to rescue a beseiged garrison stalled in face of stiff resistance by rebel guerrillas of a Shiite faction.

Defence Minister Ahmad Shah Mas'ud's forces, with reserve troops from the former pro-communist Uzbek militia of General Abdur Rashid Dostam, fought Thursday against heavily entrenched Hezb-e-Wahdat [Islamic Unity Party] guerrillas on the main road to south Kabul.

The ICRC official said the Red Cross-sponsored hospital in a Wahdat zone of south Kabul was hit by Defence Ministry artillery Wednesday night, resulting in 11 bedridden patients wounded and one killed.

"I have the impression that the hospital was deliberately being targetted," the Red Cross spokesman said.

Rockets, apparently fired by both Hezb-e-Eslami [Islamic Party] and Wahdat, crashed in and around a crossroads on Dehmazang Square on the southern road Thursday, hitting a radar station on the mountain peak behind it, sending up columns of dense black smoke.

Retaliatory government bombardments, reportedly directed by Mas'ud ally Rasul Sayyaf, rained on Wahdat strongholds, especially in the densely populated Wahdat enclave of Dasht-i-Barchi, witnesses said.

Shops in the central Kabul bazaars were shuttered and the normally crowded streets where shells and rockets had crashed indiscriminately Wednesday, were all but deserted.

Mas'ud's men on Wednesday had captured the Polish Embassy, Dehmazang Square, and the adjacent former Soviet Cultural Centre from the pro-Iranian Wahdat, but Thursday their advance appeared to have slowed.

The objective of Mas'ud's thrust into south Kabul, a Wahdat stronghold, was to rescue an isolated government garrison based at an ex-communist secret police department near the old Darulaman Palace on the city's southern outskirts.

Both the palace and the former secret police base had fallen to Wahdat's allies, the mojahedin of Prime Minister-designate Golboddin Hekmatyar's Hezb-e-Eslami faction, a Defence Ministry spokesman said Thursday.

The spokesman, General Yunus Qanuni would not comment on the government's current strategy other than to say it was "secret".

Darulaman Palace was the military base of Dostam's deputy, General Abdul Momen, whose men Qanuni said had withdrawn from Darulaman.

One of Momen's general officers is rumored to have sold the palace and a number of Momen's battle tanks to the Hezb, and the fate of Mas'ud's men from the ex-secret police department is not known.

'Hundreds' Killed, Wounded

NC1305134293 Mashhad Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Persian 1430 GMT 12 May 93

[Excerpts] Rival Afghan groups attacked Kabul today with rockets, killing and wounding hundreds. Reports from Kabul say that over 300 rockets and shells were fired on the Afghan capital. Officials at three major hospitals in Kabul said 15 people were killed and 200 wounded.

Rival factions clashed in Kabul yesterday, but there are no reports on casualties. Military sources of the Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami [Islamic Unity Party] claim that in the fighting in the past two days, areas in southwest Kabul, including some military bases of the Shura-ye Nezar [Supervisory Council], have been occupied by their forces.

The report says 30 rocket (?sites), a tank division of the 70th Brigade, and the finance office of the former Afghan Defense Ministry are among the centers and bases that fell in yesterday's clashes.

Heavy attacks by government forces on Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami positions, in which heavy artillery was used, were foiled and several members of the Shura-ye Nezar forces were captured. [passage omitted]

The battle continues in [names indistinct] and Deh Mazang areas with intensity.

Military Bases Besieged

NC1305131593 Mashhad Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Persian 1430 GMT 12 May 93

[Text] As you heard in the news, battles and clashes have continued in Kabul, especially in the past few hours. Intense fighting has been reported since yesterday in southwest Kabul, where there are several bases of the Shura-ye Nezar [Supervisory Council] and the head office (?number) 50 of the former Khad, which is one of the most important and strongest of the government's military bases. These have reportedly been besieged.

The latest reports from Kabul say that in these clashes, the head office of the Khad fell into the hands of forces opposed to the government. As a result, hundreds of tanks and military equipment, as well as a considerable quantity of arms and ammunition, have been seized by them as booty.

Sources opposed to the Afghan Government state that in these clashes hundreds of forces of the Shura-ye Nesar and Sayyaf's Ettehad-e Eslami [Islamic Union] Party have been killed, wounded, or captured. The report states that the fighting is continuing in Ku-ye Televisyon, Ku-ye Ashkhas, and Deh Mazang Districts with great intensity.

Of course, Afghan Government sources have expressed no opinion on these operations; at least we are not aware they have done so.

Rabbani: Talks Among Jehadi Figures 'Amicable'

NC1305135693 Mashhad Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Dari 1430 GMT 12 May 93

[Text] President Borhanoddin Rabbani held meetings with representatives from various Nangarhar province districts in Jalalabad and described the talks among the leaders and representatives of the Jehadi factions as amicable.

The Central News Unit in Kabul, citing the presidential spokesman, said a new plan has been propounded to set up a cabinet and a permanent cease-fire. The talks held among the leaders and the representatives of the Jehadi groups generate the hope that the desired results may be achieved.

Reports state that numerous Muslim residents in Nangarhar province congregated in Jalalabad to call for peace and a compromise among the leaders of the Jehadi groups in Afghanistan.

India

U.S. 301 Deals 'Body Blow' to Trade Talks

BK1305124993 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 5 May 93 p 13

[Editorial: "Stuck With Special 301"]

[Text] The US decision to name India, Brazil and Thailand under the so-called Special 301 provision of the Omnibus Trade Act of 1974 will deal a body blow to multilateral trade negotiations and as such is regrettable. The US attitude apparently stems from its present status of being the only superpower. It passes a law without consulting other countries and expects them to follow it in toto. The countries who are unable to fall in line for genuine domestic reasons are being made to submit to a law made in the United States. The question of sovereignty apart, India will find it unacceptable because it has taken a number of steps which should have satisfied the US business and industry. India has allowed the use of foreign trade marks, introduced more stringent copyright enforcement machinery, and is in touch with US Motion Pictures' Association to tighten loose ends. The only area where progress is yet to be made is patents

which mainly concern the pharmaceutical sector. Here the problem has been made clear many times over that a change in the patent law would immediately result in raising prices of drugs commonly used by the poor on whom will fall an intolerable burden.

The timing of the US decision is significant. The developing countries have been pressing for the conclusion of the Uruguay Round of Trade Negotiations going on for the last six years. The crucial issue of patents is also part of the Uruguay Round. Instead of hastening, the multilateral discussion, tbe US trade office found it more convenient to identify India for the third time in three years on the alleged ground that little progress has been made in the past year to provide adequate and effective patent protection. The US trade office has said that the measures followed close consultation with affected industry groups and congressional leaders. The trade office has said it is "determined" to ensure adequate protection of intellectual property rights. The US business has reportedly been losing an estimated $60 billion a year through patent law violation and there is genuine room for grievance. But "punitive" measures such as withdrawal last year of GSP (Generalised System of Preference) of the order of $80 million in the case of India seems uncalled for. It shows lack of appreciation of the problems faced by other, less advanced, countries. India's export to the US is worth Rs[rupees]4,800 crore. It has launched a new economic policy, dismantled a number of regulatory mechanism and removed cobwebs of procedures. The process of liberalisation has been going on apace. The Clinton administration should not allow itself to be swayed by the concerns of domestic lobbies. It needs to show greater understanding about the interests of countries like India, particularly when Indo-US relations are becoming friendlier.

Dunkel Proposals 'Devastating' for Agriculture

BK1305131393 Bombay NAVBHARAT TIMES in Hindi 4 May 93 p 4

[By Suman Sahay]

[Text] Of course, experts have a different opinion, but Commerce Minister Pranab Mukherji does not miss any opportunity to reiterate that the Dunkel proposals are very beneficial for Indian agriculture. The government may have been saying anything for ostentatious purposes, but in reality the government stand taken on the Dunkel proposals is reflected in the commerce minister's statements. The public posture taken by the government has been that farmers need not worry about the Dunkel proposals and that national interests will be fully protected at the GATT talks. But the facts speaks for themselves. The government was not even in a position to commit itself to any formal agreement at the last round of talks in Geneva in January. The position paper leaked to the press makes it clear that India has fully surrendered on almost all issues. The government has not allowed even a debate in parliament on the Dunkel proposals. If a debate is allowed, the government would have to prove the authenticity of its pronouncements to the media that national interests will be protected in all these matters.

Pranab Mukherji's astonishing conclusion on these very proposals, which are generally considered to be devastating for Indian agriculture and for the attempts to achieve self-sufficiency in food production, is based on a particular notion. The notion is that if agriculture subsidies are ended in the developed countries, India will enter the competition and be able to export its farm products. If 100 billion dollars going towards subsidies in the developing countries is eliminated, Indian farm products exports would see a boom. But the notion linked to 'if' and 'then' in practice has no truth and it looks more like a flight of imagination.

The current Uruguay Round of talks gives no hint that a solution is near on the ongoing tussle between the United States, the European Community, and Japan on the issue of subsidies. Germany is at the forefront of the European countries exporting farm products. As Germany is bent upon doing anything to increase its trade, it is putting pressure on France on behalf of the European Community to reach an agreement in connection with agriculture subsidies, while France is refusing to budge. The newly elected French Government, while rejecting the German campaign, has reiterated that France will renew agriculture subsidies. France has rejected the cut in agriculture subsidies on the ground that it is not merely an economic issue, but also an important element in its culture and civilization.

Japan is an important actor in the subsidy controversy and like the leading rice exporter Korea, it has also taken a tough stand on reducing agriculture subsidies. The fact is that Japan has even advocated keeping rice outside the purview of the GATT talks. The Japanese agriculture minister has said that rice imports will never be allowed and anything wrong imposed on Japan through pressure tactics will be rejected by the Japanese parliament. Reiterating his government's policy, Miyazawa recently said that his country is committed to banning the import of rice and continuing subsidies to farmers. When various important countries linked to this issue have taken such an unambiguous and tough stand, it is hard to understand as to what is the basis of our commerce minister's optimism.

Accepting that agriculture subsidies are reduced according to the Dunkel proposals in the developed countries, will it have any benefit for Indian agriculture? The answer in the context of the present situation is: No. The reason for this negative answer is that the GATT conditions have been formulated keeping in view those countries where farm exports constitute a big chunk of their total exports, while India today still is forced to import these products. Other than this, GATT laws have been framed to serve the interests of those countries where agriculture comes only under the booming business sector. In India, the case is opposite where small and marginal farmers constitute a weaker section of the society.

The argument is that the cut in subsidies will create a new market for farm products. But the important question is whether India is in a position to use these prospective markets in its favor? The prospects are nearly negligible because of two reasons. First: Since multinational companies have entered into fields like agriculture and food processing in our country, these companies will exploit the so-called benefits of new prospective markets and our poor farming community will be a mere spectator to the whole game. The multinationals will definitely have a sway on our domestic food processing industry and so our poor farmers will not advance beyond the stage of supplying raw materials to these companies and the benefit of increased prices of the finished product will go only to these exporting multinationals. Moreover, even if we accept that India will be able to enter the world market in farm products, the following question remains: Will it be able to control the supply and prices of these products?

Second: There is this Cairns Group. The group is comprised of those developed and developing countries who have come together on a common platform to protect their interests as farm products exporters. Even if we make our entry into the European markets after agreeing on a cut in the subsidy, most of the obstacles like tariff barriers created by this group will continue to work against us to a large extent—in fact, up to 70 percent of the current obstacles will remain. Though, these Cairns Group countries will be allowed to extend only up to 80 percent of the current support and facility to their domestic agriculture products, thereby marginally increasing our capability to enter into the competition as compared to the European countries, but the point is that the negotiations will only be held in the context of the Cairns Group. The group already enjoys many facilities and benefits from competitive markets, which would allow it to grab these markets much more easily than us. While these countries belonging to the Cairns Group have less production cost than ours, their production level is also clearly much more than ours. For example, whereas the production level is 1.9 [metric] tons per hectare in India, it is 5.5 tons in countries like the United States and Australia. That is why these countries have been able to sell their farm products to those European countries where there has been no reduction in subsidies or production.

Now, let us look into the second reason for the optimism of our commerce minister. It is being said that going by the GATT formula on fixing the level of subsidies, our domestic level of subsidies is even less than 10 percent. Anything more than 10 percent would require a similar proportion of reduction, thus, making our entry into the competitive market a natural phenomenon. But to make the picture clearer, the commerce minister should heed some facts. The level of subsidies determined through Aggregate Measure and Support, or AMS, is not always on target. It also has so many variables that it can be interpreted in so many ways at any given time. The Commerce Ministry itself has accepted that if the base of the determining factors are changed in the Indian context, interpretations will change and our level of subsidies will be much more than the desired 10 percent level. The ministry admits that as long as the calculations are based on AMS, doubts will persist whether some problems of our agriculture production are being kept in view. Now tell us, how can the encouraging statements of our commerce minister create optimism in us?

Moreover, the question remains: Do we possess in reality spare foodgrains and other farm products for export purposes? We have to maintain our foodgrains stocks for essential purposes. We have to also keep our fair price shop system and rationing system alive. If the above two things are necessities, it is obvious that we can take the gamble of exporting only at the cost of sacrificing the above two systems. Meaning, the poor will have to bear the consequences.

Well, forget about the blessings, the Dunkel proposals will definitely prove to be absolutely devastating for Indian agriculture. The result will be that we will loose sight of the worthiness of our imports. If we look at this bitter fact in the context of countries exporting farm products, we will one day become a net importer of the farm products and foodgrains. It will have have adverse effect on our attempts to become self-sufficient in food production.

The time is not to waver in our firm resolve to gradually become self-sufficient in the food production. If prosperous and powerful countries like Germany and Japan, who have a large stocks of spare foodgrains, reject all proposals that create suspicions about reducing their stockpiles, how can India, which has not fully overcome the problems in way of becoming self-sufficienct and surplus country, accept these proposals?

India has the capability to develop itself as one of the grain exporting countries. But the time for this has not arrived yet and the Dunkel proposals definitely could not be a means for achieving this aim. New thinking must be adopted in the fields of agriculture policy and agriculture production to achieve this aim.

Change in U.S. Approach to Nonproliferation Noted

BK1305132593 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 13 May 93

[Commentary by ASSAM EXPRESS correspondent Dev Prakash]

[Text] Though late than never, the U.S. Administration has realized that it must take into account not only Indian domestic political concerns but also regional security threat perceptions created by Pakistan, China and Central Asian nations. This is what India had been pleading against the Pakistani proposal, cleverly made for keeping West Asia free from nuclear arms. India had been demanding a universal approach for nuclear proliferation regime. A report to the Senate Foreign Relations

Committee on 5 May has asked the Clinton administration not to pursue the nonproliferation issue on the basis of external pressures. Referring to South Asia, the document points out that India and Pakistan have advanced programs to acquire weapons of mass destruction and ballistic missile delivery systems.

The reality of the situation is that India has never developed nuclear technology to manufacture weapons of mass destruction despite pressures from both Pakistan and China. Because of regional tensions between India and Pakistan caused by Pakistan's proxy war policy, India had to develop ballistic missile delivery system. Initially, India's missile program was driven by security concerns about China. But Pakistan's nuclear programs have now added to these concerns. In fact, Pakistan's program is aided by China, which adds another security concern.

The report says that China has been assisting Pakistan's missile program and nuclear activities. In 1991, USA had imposed sanctions on both Pakistan and China following transfer of missile technology. Though, subsequently, the sanctions were waived on assurance from Beijing that it would observe the guidelines of the Missile Technology Control Regime. It also promised to adhere to NPT [Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty] in 1992. But it continues to help Pakistan's nuclear weapons program and missile export policy.

Since America wants to remain superpower and wants to ensure that in future, both distant and near, no other country poses any danger to America's security, it does not want any other country, especially from the Third World, to acquire the nuclear or missile technology. In order to pursue this rather ambitious agenda, the U.S. has emphasized nonproliferation as a major issue in its relationship with both India and Pakistan. In addition, Russia, Britain, France, Germany and Japan, which, the report points out, are some of the major aid donors for India and Pakistan, have also been persuaded to undertake bilateral discussions on nonproliferation and regional security issues with India and Pakistan.

Such combined pressure tactics are intended to underscore to India and Pakistan that nonproliferation is a global, not just a U.S. concern. Secondly, the fact that USA gives due respect to the domestic political concerns of India on the signing of the NPT by admitting that any retreat by government from the principle that India had the moral and strategic right to nuclear weapons as long as others continue to possess them could bring down the government.

The convergence of India-U.S. perceptions becomes even more clear by the sympathetic view the president has taken on India's concerns about the existence of real or potential dangers of extended region. The USA has obviously not altered its cold war definition of South Asia for the benefit of India. It appears to have been mould more to continuing transfer of missile-related technology from China to Pakistan, including their shipment of Chinese M-11 missile parts to Islamabad. [sentence as heard] Moreover, Pakistan's terrorist links have become more embarrassingly patent and the trail for the World Trade Center and bombings in Bombay also goes toward that country.

The report is yet deficient in certain respects from Indian point of view. It sets off with the oft-repeated Pakistani view that India had not fully accepted its legitimacy as a separate independent nation state. The emergence of Bangladesh as an independent sovereign state in 1971 proves that India has no intention of undoing the partition. On the other hand, it is Pakistan which still talks about the unfinished business of partition. The report fails to take note of the fact that, excepting the eight ICBM's, the rest of Chinese nuclear force cannot reach the U.S. and the Chinese force can pose a threat only to South and Southeast Asia. It is an axiomatic principle in strategy that it is not the current intention of a country but its potential which needs to be taken into account.

Joint Defense Cooperation With Belarus Planned

BK1405080693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0730 GMT 14 May 93

[Text] India and Belarus are to cooperate in the field of defense. A memorandum of understanding signed in New Delhi today marking the visit of the prime minister of Belarus, provides for cooperation between the defense industries of the two countries, technology transfer, and coproduction. It also envisages product support in services in an effective manner. The two countries have also signed six wide-ranging agreements to strengthen bilateral cooperation. One of the agreements relates to the declaration on principles and directions of cooperation. It was signed by the prime ministers of the two countries. Both sides agreed to carry out trade in hard currency. The two countries will also share their expertise in the field of science and technology and tourism. There will be visa-free travel facility for the government officials between the two countries. In addition, both sides will cooperate in the field of culture, art, education, and mass media.

The Belarus prime minister, Mr. Kebich, has left the capital for Bombay. He was given a ceremonial send off at the forecourts of Rashtrapati Bhavan [President's House] this morning. The prime minister, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao, and his cabinet colleagues were present on the occasion. Talking to our correspondent, Mr. Kebich described his visit as very successful.

Significance of Malaysian Defense Ties Viewed

BK1305143593 Delhi INDIAN DEFENCE REVIEW in English Apr 93 pp 8, 9

[Editorial: "A Look at the Eastern Approaches: Significance of Defense Ties With Malaysia"]

[Text] The bilateral defence agreement recently signed between Malaysia and India is an important landmark.

Malaysia occupies a position of strategic significance being in the immediate vicinity of the choke point of the straits of Malacca. It is an area where we should endeavour to promote goodwill, and strategic and economic cooperation.

Malaysia has shown keen interest in expanding defence cooperation encompassing all the three services. Basically our technical knowhow and our equipment like helicopters, medium transport aircraft, patrol boats and facilities for coastal surveillance are of major interest to it. We are also in a position to provide servicing facilities to the Malaysian Air Force particularly for their proposed MiG-29 fleet which Malaysia is planning to purchase from Russia. The defence agreement between Indian and Malaysia comes in the wake of the understanding between India and Russia that India can export defence equipment of Russian origin to other developing countries. The avenues for expanding defence ties with several other countries of this region are also now wide open. Our aim should be to develop closer ties with Indonesia, Singapore and the Philippines in the beginning. Also we should improve communication channels and work out arrangements to exchange intelligence and technical know-how with these countries in order to keep the rights of peaceful maritime passage undisturbed. Trade agreements should go hand in hand with various agreements to facilitate our access to the markets of the Asia-Pacific region. Such arrangements would contribute to the stability, economic growth and exchange of technology in this region.

'Modest Beginning' to Nation's Arms Sales Seen

BK1305142193 Delhi INDIAN DEFENCE REVIEW in English Apr 93 pp 7-8

[Editorial: "Arms Diplomacy—A Perspective"]

[Text] Arms sales and transfers to various Third World countries have been used with great effect by the US and the Soviets as a lucrative means of gaining military and political influence. After the mid seventies China too became an active participant in this game. The mutual rivalries of various developing Afro-Asian countries provided unlimited scope for arms diplomacy. The arms trade, in addition to being highly lucrative, has important political and strategic implications. It creates avenues for exerting political and military pressures on chosen countries and generates economic growth in the exporting country. Mutual technical assistance programmes and friendship treaties are generally a part of the package. The continued and growing importance of China to Pakistan, Burma and various West Asian countries is an example of the successful use of arms diplomacy.

The induction of arms can upset regional balances and encourage local conflicts. Several countries consider it morally incorrect to indulge in arms exporting activities, whereas many others, who preach loudly, carry on arms diplomacy on the quiet.

Supply and transfer of arms can boomerang on the policies of supplying countries and create undesirable conflicts in a region where the exporting country desires that peace should prevail (which was the reason for the arms transfer in the first place).

It seems India too is making a modest beginning in the direction of arms sales with a view to creating an attractive source of foreign exchange. Even though we need to shed many of our ideological predispositions and take a practical world view of the arms trade, we must consider the various implications of arms exports very carefully. A comprehensive long term policy which is formulated after due consideration of our national and regional interests would be necessary. We should not make half backed, ill- considered decisions which work to our strategic disadvantage in the future. We need to develop a proper infrastructure to go into the various implications of arms exports as ad hoc arrangements without expert advice can harm national interests; today's friends can become enemies tomorrow and use our own arms against us, as was the case with the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam].

Though the policy enunciated in October 1991 does differentiate between lethal and non-lethal equipment as well as Government to Government and Government to private dealers sales, much equipment falls in a 'grey zone'. In the very near future we would be in a position to export lethal 'defensive' armament like Surface to Air Missiles as well as offensive oriented weaponry like SSM's [surface to surface missiles] and MBT's [main battle tanks]. The former will bring us into direct confrontation with powers pursuing the discriminatory Missile Technology Control Regime. Equally important is the sale of surplus lethal weapons to non governmental dealers. Therefore a model sales agency must be properly constituted so that commercial interests are pursued prudently.

'Concerted Effort' Needed in Central Asia

BK1305142993 Delhi INDIAN DEFENCE REVIEW in English Apr 93 p 8

[Editorial: "Central Asia A Region in Flux"]

[Text] The collapse of the Soviet Union has created an unstable conglomoration of Central Asian Republics which has yet to take a definite political direction or acquire a positive regional identity. This region is at present highly vulnerable to various pulls and pressures which can generate internecine conflicts. It has already become an arena of the competing interests of several countries like Turkey, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Pakistan and China. The unstable conditions and political violence in Afghanistan also pose a major threat to stability in the region. Russia, with its growing internal problems and economic difficulties, is in no position to guarantee peace and stability. The US and other Western powers are, by and large, concerned only with the misuse of nuclear and other sophisticated weapons located in these republics. They are also wary of the likely impact of

Islamic fundamentalist groups on the politics of the newly independent countries of this region.

India and Pakistan are the only two South Asian countries which have the capability to influence the political and economic consolidation of this area. However they seldom look at things from the same angle; they are therefore bound to work at cross-purposes. Since various competing Islamic interests and the continuing turmoil in Afghanistan can greatly hamper Pakistan's plans, the field is still wide open and India should make a concerted effort to gain influence in this region. We do enjoy residual goodwill here and posses certain assets which cannot be easily matched by many interested countries. We can provide assistance in various development programmes, export human resources and technology without any strings attached. It would be in our interest to follow an activist policy in this region in order to negate external hostile influences.

We may not have common borders with this region today but the turbulent Kashmir region and this area have a definite strategic correlation which must not be lost sight of. A new strategic frontier has opened up from independent India which the British had so maladroitly handled in the nineteenth century. Though China and Pakistan are better placed geographically in the area vis-a-vis India, we have considerable assets to offer which can bridge this gap. Alternatively, a hostile grouping in the geo-strategic sense emerging in Central Asia bodes ill for us.

Research Group Marketing Space Goods

BK1305163493 Delhi PATRIOT in English 8 May 93 p 8

[Text] With the setting up of Antrix Corporation, a company sponsored by the Space Department, India has started marketing a wide variety of space products and services developed in various Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) centres, reports ANI [Asian News International].

Countries outside India of late have expressed interest in making use of the Indian space capabilities for their requirements.

The Antrix Corporation has already bagged two important international study contracts from the International Maritime Satellite Organisation (INMARSAT) against stiff competition.

The contracts relate to the definition of hand-held phone satellite system using low earth-orbiting satellites. This contract was originally awarded to a European Consortium comprising Aerospatiale France, Alcatel France, Alena Italy and Deutsche Germany.

The other contract which is exclusive to Antrix relates to design, implementation and evolution of an antenna of INMARSAT hand- held telephone system.

Keeping this in mind and in view of the changed economic scenario, the Indian space authorities are convinced of the need to commercially exploit technical projects developed by them. Antrix Corporation has been perceived as a suitable mechanism for marketing the Indian space goods and technologies.

Antrix Corporation is facing competition from Aerospace Industries of USA, Canada, Europe, Russia, Japan and China.

Foreign Investment Board Approves Power Projects

BK1305162493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 13 May 93

[Text] The Foreign Investment Board has approved six power projects to be set up in the private sector with a generation capacity of about 5,000 megawatts. Three of these plants will be in Andhra Pradesh and one each in Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra and Karnataka. This was disclosed by the minister for power, Mr. N.K.P. Salve, in New Delhi while presiding over the consultative committee meeting of the MP's attached to his ministry. He said the transmission and distribution losses should be brought down to 12 to 15 percent from the 23 percent by the end of the eighth plan. The minister said the Planning Commission has provided 1,000 crore rupees for launching comprehensive national energy efficiency program.

Five Killed, Seven Injured in Gujarat Explosion

BK1305162693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 13 May 93

[Text] In Gujarat, five persons were killed and seven injured in an explosion at Revania village in Rajkot District this evening. The district collector told our correspondent that a motorcycle parked on the wayside exploded killing these persons. However, the cause of the explosion is not yet known. The district magistrate and other officials have rushed to the spot. Details are awaited.

Army Silence on Media Portrayals 'Deafening'

BK1305144993 Delhi INDIAN DEFENCE REVIEW in English Apr 93 p 10

[Editorial: "Targeting the Armed Forces"]

[Text] A section of our media has been targeting the armed forces, particularly the Army for some time now. Their conclusion has been that things have gone from bad to worse in the Services. Their reports cite examples of corruption and moral turpitude in the senior ranks, unfair promotional practices, favouritism and nepotism at the higher levels. There is an attempt to create an impression that the fighting qualities of the armed forces are suspect.

The impact of such reports on the public mind is profound since most people believe that the Armed Forces are still untouched by the corruption and moral degradation rampant in other areas of public life. Persistant reports of growing moral degradation of the armed forces can damage the image of the Services a great deal.

Another group of analysts, some of them eminent, comment frequently on the alleged atrocities of the Army during counter- insurgency operations in various parts of the country. These reports generally reflect adversely on the Army and, in the absence of any contradition from an authentic source, carry conviction. A certain report appearing in some of our news magazines, about the brutal treatment meted out to civilians by our security forces in Kashmir, is particularly damaging as it creates the impression that the Army is largely responsible for such acts. The BBC Asia TV report, presented by George Arney from a location in Kashmir, showed some horrifying visuals and created an impression that the Army is torturing and killing innocent civilians after they round them up for interrogation. At the end of the item Mr. B.S. Bedi, Director General of Police in J&K [Jammu and Kashmir] appears on the screen briefly and brushes aside reports of such atrocities in a most unconvincing and casual manner. What we would like to convey to the Army is that their silence on such occasions is deafening. They either believe that such reports do not matter or they are under an impression that no one believes these reports in any case. This ostrich like attitude of the Army is damaging their image a great deal. It is necessary to come out with authentic information about the actual state of affairs so that such reports can be exposed as propaganda and the facts are put in perspective.

The term 'Security Force' conceals more than it reveals as it lumps together the Army, the central police organisations and the para military forces. 'Security Forces' is a term which can correctly be used only for specially trained, area-oriented, partially language-qualified forces available to a unified civil- military command. Paramilitary forces are quite distinct from the Army in any country. Their tasks, modes of operation and ethos also differ greatly from that of the regular Army. The Ministry of Defence and the Army do not seem to notice that the Army is being described as a 'Security Force' by our media.

Knowing the Army, we are certain that, barring an exception, no army officer or jawan would resort to torture, rape or murder in cold blood. The Ministry of Defence and the Armed Forces Headquarters however must make things clear to the public and make concerted efforts to stop this campaign of misinformation against the Armed Forces by biased observers. Any propaganda which seeks to influence international opinion regarding the situation in Kashmir must be dealt with firmly and in an organised manner so that the armed forces and other security forces are not maligned.

When the regular Army is called an Army of occupation by our own media they forget that the Army has been in Kashmir from 26 October 1947 as the first and only bulwark against numerous attempts by Pakistan at wrenching the valley away from us. Whenever there has been political confrontation between Delhi and Srinagar the Army has been the first propaganda (and physical) target for 45 years. This is not a new phenomenon that has arisen out of the insurgency initiated in 1988-89. If the media insist on calling the Army in Kashmir an "occupation Army", are they not thereby conceding that Indian Kashmir is in fact an "occupied state"?

Iran

Presidential Candidates Profiled

LD1305151593 Tehran IRNA in English 1407 GMT 13 May 93

[Text] Tehran, May 13, IRNA—President Akbar Hashemi- Rafsanjani, who will be running for a second term in office in the June 11 elections, was born in a remote village in Rafsanjan, Kerman Province, in 1934. His father, 'Ali Hashemi-Rafsanjani, a farmer and a man of religion, was bread-winner of an 11-member family. His mother is alive.

When five, he was sent to a traditional primary school. When nine he already was helping his father in farming.

Rafsanjani went to the holy city of Qom in 1948 where he registered in a theology school and studied under famous teachers such as the late Imam Khomeyni, Grand Ayatollah Borujerdi and Allameh Tabataba'i.

In 1963 when the troops of the deposed shah attacked the Feizieh theological school he was arrested and drafted to Army, in violation of the law that exempted theological students from military service. However, two months later he escaped the garrison in the uprising of June 6, 1963.

Rafsanjani was arrested, imprisoned and tortured in 1964, 1965, 1971 and 1972 for his anti-shah activities.

At the culmination of the revolution, he was released from prison when the masses attacked the prisons and let out all political prisoners.

Rafsanjani, in cooperation with leader of the Islamic revolution Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i, the late Ayatollah Mohammad Hoseyni Beheshti, Ayatollah Abdol Karim Musavi Ardabili and the late Hojjat Ol-Eslam Mohammad Javad Bahonar, formed the Islamic Republic Party in 1979.

He was elected to the first term of Majlis in 1980 from Tehran constituency and was elected as Majlis speaker.

After the outbreak of the Iraqi-imposed war in 1980, the late Imam Khomeyni appointed him as his representative at the Supreme Defence Council in 1981 and he become the council's speaker.

In 1983 he was elected to the Assembly of Experts and in 1988 he became the acting commander-in-chief of the armed forces.

In the presidential elections of 1989 he was elected president with 15,537,394 votes.

He was married in 1959 and has two daughters and three sons.

Taheri, born in 1936 in Kazerun, Fars Province, was elected to the first term of the Majlis in 1980.

Taheri holds a master's degree in civil engineering. Before the victory of the 1979 Islamic revolution he worked in Road and Transport Ministry and after the revolution was put in charge of the Islamic revolution's guards corps of Fars Province.

Fluent in Arabic language, he is currently working in defence industries in Shiraz, capital of Fars Province.

Ahmad Tavakkoli, born in 1951 in Behshahr, Mazandaran Province, was government spokesman and minister labor and social affairs in the cabinet of Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi.

A founding member of the afternoon daily "RESALAT" he is currently studying economics at Tehran's Shahid Beheshti University.

'Abdollah Ja'far-'Ali Jasbi, 49, holds a doctorate degree in technology and production management.

Jasbi received a B.S. in industrial engineering from a college in Tehran in 1966 and a M.S. in industrial management from a well-known university in Britain in 1975.

In 1979 he served as advisor to interior minister, in 1980 as deputy prime minister and secretary general of the State Organization for Employment and Administrative Affairs, in 1983 as undersecretary general of the Islamic Republic Party, and in 1982 as chancellor of the Islamic Open University.

Between the years 1974-1978 he was very active in anti-shah movements abroad and formed Islamic and cultural groups.

Married in 1972, he has five children.

Spokesman Discusses Election, Medicine Supply

NC1305161593 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0230 GMT 13 May 93

[Text] Government Spokesman Habibi told our correspondent last night that the government has allocated a 70-rial [to the dollar] exchange rate for importing the drugs the country needs and that there is no problem concerning the drugs' supply. Speaking to our correspondent after last night's Cabinet session, he said the problems and shortages of drugs are temporary; things will be solved with the effort of the health minister.

The first vice president commented on decisions adopted during last night's session, saying: The Cabinet has made some amendments to the presidential election regulations; in areas lacking vote- counting equipment, votes will be counted as they have been in the past. Based on the Cabinet's decision, voters must use identity cards in the election. Iranian nationals abroad who do not have identity cards can use their passports. The government spokesman said the government has undertaken to place the necessary materials and software at the disposal of election officials in areas that can't use vote-counting equipment.

Based on another amendment, representatives of the governor and of the Council of Guardians should be present during the vote count.

Khamene'i Addresses Students on Defense

LD1305134693 Tehran IRIB Television Second Program Network in English 1315 GMT 13 May 93

[Text] Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Khamene'i, in a gathering of the head and members of the Board of Trustees, as well as professors, personnel, and students of the University of Strategic Sciences of the Iranian Army, stressed the need for order and natural scientific and practical ability of the Armed Forces. The leader added that the Armed Forces should also maintain the real Islamic identity. Ayatollah Khamene'i declared that the Armed Forces should be well familiarized with global issues and the world political geography.

The leader of the Islamic revolution also underlined the increase of the country's military power and said: In a world where no international organization can prevent the atrocities of the world devourers, the Iranian nation should be able to defend itself.

Expressing his satisfaction over the establishment of the Strategic Sciences University, Ayatollah Khamene'i recommended university officials to create a revolutionary atmosphere in line with the goals set by the Islamic revolution.

Seminar Discusses Privatization Issues

LD1305173493 Tehran IRNA in English 1511 GMT 13 May 93

[Text] Tehran, May 13, IRNA—Iran's policy is to remove bottlenecks hindering the private sector and economic development plans, Minister of Economy and Finance Mohsen Nurbakhsh said here Thursday.

Nurbakhsh, addressing the concluding session of the seminar on analytical survey of privatization, said the second 5-year Development [Plan] will have greater focus on privatization with an objective to further untilize the country's existing potential.

He said reorganizing the labour system and creating a proper atmosphere for implementation of the plan were the main factors to be considered in this regard.

The minister underlined the need for restructuring the financial basis of production units, and said said supportive policies should give the private sector sufficient confidence to enter the competitive market.

'Ali Akbar Arab-Mazar, dean of the College of Economy, outlined to the seminar the topics discussed and the objectives of the the week-long meetings which were aimed at assessing the privatization policies in view of the world experience.

The trend of privatization, the role monetary markets and the capital play in the process, the necessary institutional framework, labour and employment issues and

the impact of the single-parity exchange, were among topics discussed in the seminar, he added.

Minister of heavy industries, Mohammad Hadi Nezhad-Hoseynian, as well as a number Iranian bank managers and officials in charge of reconstruction were present at the meeting.

The seminar which was jointly sponsored by the College of Economic Affairs and Economic Development Institute was held 8-13 May.

Germany's Kohl Calls President, Views Contacts

LD1305170493 Tehran IRNA in English 1613 GMT 13 May 93

[Text] Tehran, May 13, IRNA—German Chancellor Helmut Kohl made a telephone call to President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani Thursday and told him that a special envoy would soon visit Iran to submit the chancellor's message for the Iranian head of state.

Kohl expresed hope that the talks between his envoy and Iranian officials would pave the way for closer contacts between the heads of state of the two countries.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Rafsanjani said he had been informed of the "fruitful results" of a recent visit of an Iranian parliamentary delegation to Bonn, and expressed hope that the results would be seriously followed up.

The Iranian president and German chancellor also underlined the need for continuation of contacts between officials of the two countries.

Talks Held on Return of Afghan Refugees

LD1305192793 Tehran IRNA in English 1823 GMT 13 May 93

[Text] Tehran, May 13, IRNA—The Islamic Republic of Iran, Afghanistan and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees [UNHCR] agreed on Thursday to make necessary arrangements for voluntary return of 700,000 Afghan refugees from Iran to Afghanistan by the end of 1993.

The agreement was made in a trilateral meeting here between delegations from Iran, Afghanistan and UNHCR. The need was also underlined to put into operation the Salehabad checkpoint on the Afghan border in Khorasan Province, northeastern Iran.

At present, Afghan refugees in Iran are leaving for their homeland through six border crossings in Khorasan and Sistan- Baluchestan Provinces.

"During the 14 years of jihad (holy struggle), three million Afghans sought refuge in Iran and settled in 19 provinces across the country," Ahmad Hoseyni, Interior Ministry director general in charge of expatriate affairs told IRNA.

Husseini, who led the Iranian delegation to the tripartite talks, said, of the Afghan refugees based in Iran, 518,000 have left for home voluntarily of whom 55,000 were given material aid from UNHCR.

It was agreed in today's session that the Afghan Government set up some bases inside Afghanistan in conjuction with UNHCR to help facilitate the return of refugees from Iran, he said.

Husseini reiterated there was no restriction on Afghan refugees taking their belongings including household appliances and foreign currencies out of Iran.

Head of the UNHCR delegation, J. Fakhouri, said the fund allocated for the repatriation of Afghan refugees totalled only 116 million dollars. He termed international aid as insufficient.

He said UNHCR gives 25 dollars and a 50 kgs bag of wheat to each refugee who returns home to maintain their livelihood for three months.

The three sides decided to hold their next session in Kabul on June 20 if security returns to the Afghan capital, if not they would agree on another venue.

Majles Speaker on Rushdie, Policies

NC1105140393 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES INTERNATIONAL WEEKLY in English 29 Apr 93 pp 1, 14

[Report by Irfan Parviz]

[Text] Tehran—A leading revolutionary figure of the Islamic Republic said that "Iran neither had nor has any intention of sending commandos to kill the apostate Salman Rushdie."

Majles Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri said, "The Leader of the Islamic Revolution Imam Khomeyni executed his Islamic duty when he issued the Fatwa, or Islamic Decree, on the blasphemy committed by the Indian-born British national Salman Rushdie in his novel "The Satanic Verses."

"You know the West makes a lot of fuss over the freedom of expression, but the so-called champions of these rights should apply the same criteria to others also, the speaker said.

"We also have freedom of expression and our religion binds us to act on such occasions, as in the case of apostate Rushdie, who has hurt the feelings of over one billion Muslims," he said.

Nateq-Nuri said, "We just did our religious duty and we did not and we will not send commandos to kill that apostate as it is not our policy."

In an exclusive interview with the TEHRAN TIMES the Majles Speaker commented on a number of current national and international topics including relations with Western countries.

"Iran's relations with the West draws a line which separates those countries with whom we wish to join hands and those from whom we wish to keep a distance," Nateq-Nuri, 50, said.

When asked to clarify he said, "Well, the matter is very clear. A clear line separates the United States from other Western countries."

Obviously he was referring to the hostile attitude adopted by the United States against the Islamic Revolution from the very beginning of its culmination in 1979. This had been the reason for Iran in keeping a distance from the United States throughout years past after the setting up of the Islamic system in Iran.

"As far as other Western countries are concerned relations with them are based on reciprocity and on the basis of mutual respect, interest and noninterference in each others' international affairs," he said.

"You have seen that there are certain countries in the West with whom we have good trade and economic relations," the speaker noted.

He singled out the exclusion of the United Kingdom from the Book Fair to be held in Iran for that country's hostile stance against Iran on the Rushdie issue.

One of the flag bearers of the Islamic Revolution during the years of 1960s and 1970s Nateq-Nuri was imprisoned, tortured and exiled very many times in the struggle against the despotic regime of the Shah.

Former interior minister Nateq-Nuri admitted that there is a difference between the Third Term of the Majles and the Fourth Term of the Majles but scoffed at what the Western media and some inside the country have said in their analysis on this issue.

"Look, one factor should be noted that there is no difference between the members of the previous Majles and the present one on the basic principles of the Islamic Revolution, and the Islamic system in Iran," he said and pointed out that there is a difference on the issues such as economic policy inside the country and the way of relations with foreign countries.

The most important difference of opinion which exists between the present and previous Majles is on the country's economy. He did not go into details. But it is believed that contrary to the previous Majles members, the present deputies believe in privatization.

The majority of the Third Term of the Majles believed in the state-controlled economy which many believe resulted in a mess.

On the forthcoming presidential elections Nateq-Nuri hoped that President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani would stand for the next term and expressed optimism "God willing he will win the elections."

On the formation of the future cabinet after the presidential elections Nateq-Nuri said, "One should not forget that the Majles will never allow its rights to be trampled by any one and in anyway."

Here, he said, foreign analysts and some inside the country are wrong. Foreign analysts while giving their point of view also give the line of action and thinking.

"If you read between the lines of foreign media analyses, you will come to know that they are provoking some action or something which is not in the interest of the revolution and the nation," Nateq-Nuri said.

"To be very frank, the Majles deputies have certain words for certain ministers and if their names are presented they would be debated in the open session of the Majles," the speaker said.

"And moreover," he said "I believe that the names of certain ministers would be dropped by the president while presenting the cabinet for Majles approval."

He made it clear that "the Majles will never forget its obligation towards the nations and we have seen that a minister was summoned by the Majles for impeachment recently.

Nateq-Nuri was referring to Minister of Roads and Transportation Sa'idi-Kia who however, received a clean bill from majority votes of the Majles.

"In future also the Majles will firmly use its due rights whatever they may be as envisaged in the Constitution," Nateq-Nuri said.

'Weakness' of Islamic World Viewed

NC0805175993 Tehran JAHAN-E ESLAM in Persian 26 Apr 93 pp 1, 10

[Editorial: "The Islamic Conference Organization and the World of Islam"]

[Excerpts] The 21st Session of Foreign Ministers of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] has opened in Karachi at a time when the world of Islam is facing a very sensitive and unprecedented situation. The problems of the world of Islam are becoming more and more complicated each day while, in parallel, their political- economic maneuverability is decreasing. [passage omitted]

The world of Islam is facing numerous problems—problems that are partly political, such as the bloody incidents in Bosnia, Israel's aggression against southern Lebanon, the massacre of Palestinians, U.S. intervention in Somalia, the suppression of Muslims in Egypt and Algeria, the critical situation in Tajikstan, the civil war in Afghanistan, the silent massacre of Muslims in Kashmir, U.S. expansion in the Persian Gulf, and the massacre of people in southern Iraq.

However, part of the problem in the world of Islam is socio- economic in nature; we can refer to the West's efforts to tax the income of the major oil-producing countries, the continuation of poverty and economic backwardness in the world of Islam, the failure to form a common Islamic market, the West's encouragement of Islamic countries to spend astronomic sums for arms purchases, and so on.

In the cultural field, what is significant and constitutes a common problem faced by all Islamic countries is the West's efforts to gradually alter the cultural identity of the Muslims. The gradual alteration of Islamic values in

various regions and countries where Muslims constitute a majority is a major and fundamental problem that Islamic governments should heed and should devise a specific strategy to confront.

However, political incidents have overshadowed all other problems and developments in Islamic countries with the most attention focusing on Bosnia-Herzegovina and the situation in occupied Palestine. [passage omitted]

Unfortunately apart from expressions of sympathy and the dispatch of food assistance, Islamic countries have not carried out any significant steps to help Bosnia, and their ultimatums and threats have never materialized. This reveals the shocking fact that the Islamic World has become lifeless and defunct. The subservience of some heads of state and their unholy alliance with arrogant governments and international Zionism has prevented them from taking any positive steps. But the economic, political, and military potential and resources of the world of Islam are so great that by putting only part of them to use the Islamic genocide in Bosnia could have been easily stopped. Unfortunately, conservative policies and the absence of uniformity and concordance in the Islamic world have led to a weak and ineffective stance on the problem.

The Islamic countries have repeatedly met at the foreign-minister level and once on the level of heads of state and have made significant decisions in support of the Bosnian Muslims and have given the UN Security Council the opportunity to end this aggression. But since these statements and resolutions lacked a practical backing, they were useless. For how long should we witness such weakness? What is the reason for these conditions? Is not the reason the absence of unity and concordance? Why are the Islamic governments that placed all their wealth and financial and military resources at the disposal of the United States and its allies to crush the Iraqi regime in order to save Kuwait from aggression not ready to use their potential and resources to help the oppressed Muslims in Bosnia? If one-tenth of the resources that were placed at the disposal of the United States and its allies in the war against Iraq was placed at the disposal of the Bosnians, the Serbs could not be able to massacre the Bosnians so impudently and pitilessly. Undoubtedly during the Karachi conference, the ICO's positions on Bosnia will be repeated. But what the world of Islam needs now is to achieve a unity of action and to use the Islamic world's resources for a more effective and more active presence in critical areas. And if today the Islamic world does not achieve this unity, then tomorrow we will definitely witness more bitter incidents in Bosnia, just as we can see examples of in Tajikstan and Kashmir.

Underground Group Deemed 'Fruit of Imagination'

NC0805155993 Tehran JAHAN-E ESLAM in Persian 22 Apr 93 p 2

[Unattributed commentary: "Futile Hopes"]

[Text] For some time now the mass media of the West and especially of Zionist circles have been striving to find ways to move against the Islamic Republic of Iran and malign its integrity in an effort to achieve their specific political-propaganda objectives. And within the context of such dangerous thoughts, what we see today is the effort to create imaginary groups and sects. For more than a year, Zionist circles have been speaking of the military-political activities of an unknown group called the Babak Khorramdin Organization and they excitedly report every day on statements by this unknown group and attribute terrorist and quasi- terrorist acts to it. All of this is only the fruit of their imagination and their propaganda dreams.

This process has recently intensified and has also spread to the European and Western mass media as well. Several reports are being published that are gradually being perceived as a problem and are posing questions in Iranian society. But whatever the objective behind this complicated propaganda process, one thing is clear: that terrorism constitutes a strong part of the policies of the West's Zionist circles which are trying to forge new territory in Iranian society to be exploited later. Even though a policy of anticipation vis-a-vis this creeping political-propaganda effort is a principled stance, nevertheless what is important for us at this stage is to reveal the sinister objectives that the West and the Zionist circles are entertaining.

Undoubtedly the unknown Babak Khorramdin Organization is the fruit of the imagination of Zionist circles and if anything has been done it has been by those who are directly linked with these circles and are now trying to find an excuse to justify their acts. For years the arrogant circles have tried to achieve their objectives by murdering the spirit and thoughts of the revolutionary Muslims of Iran; their support for terrorism forms an integral part of their policy. Groups such as the Monafeqin [Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization], the Feda'iyan-e Khalq, the Komeleh, Peykar, Rah-e Kargar, and so on have—during the past 14 years—done everything within their power to massacre innocent people, revolutionaries, and competent people and Muslims in Iran and they have inflicted many human and material losses on our people. The objective of all these efforts was to overthrow the Islamic system. But what have they gained from all these assassinations, and what have these small groups with their extensive organizational structures achieved? All of these groups have propounded the slogan of supporting the people, of striving for their freedom and so on. But the only thing that they have done has been to kill innocent people and prominent scientific and religious personalities.

Now with the revelation of the objectives and nature of these groups, we can see that arrogant circles once again attempted something which was doomed to fail from the very start. The recent commotion about the existence of this unknown organization too has been within the same context. A European publication recently prepared a report on the unknown organization, claiming that this

group is formed of people who were disillusioned with the Islamic Republic and who want to build a strong Iran with a national identity and bring freedom. This newspaper claimed that it interviewed one of the organization's officials for eight hours and was convinced that this organization does exist and is very active in Iran.

All this is in the imaginations of the arrogant and Zionist circles. There is no doubt that because of the failure of their efforts, they are trying to bring together treacherous and subservient people at home and abroad and by extending financial, intelligence, and political resources to them, they want to organize a continued fight against the Islamic system. They are well aware that the opposition—which includes a vast spectrum extending from the Monafeqin to monarchists and from the Baha'is to other small groups—have all lost their role and have been disgraced. And the extent of their disgrace is so great that their mentors are also no longer prepared to capitalize on them. These circles want to create a new group with their propaganda—a group whose members and leaders are unknown—and, by resorting to baseless lies, they want to grant these people an independent and nationalist character.

The support by the Zionist and Western circles for such methods shows first and foremost their belief in exploiting terrorism. But how do the United States and Europe, who claim to lead the fight against terrorism, justify their propaganda support for an unknown group that claims to be carrying out acts of terrorism?

In their sick minds, the United States and Israel have reached such a degree of bankruptcy that they are ready to resort to any act in order to express their rage. But the Muslim people of Iran are well aware of these methods, and no act of terror can mar their determination. Sooner or later the nature of this movement will be revealed for everyone to see. But what is important here is that our society should now be very alert in confronting this problem because the recent propaganda movements and destructive attempts by the organized groups of the Zionist and arrogant circles' political mafia show that these efforts are coordinated and completely interlinked.

West's Inaction on Bosnia-Herzegovina Viewed

LD1305185893 Tehran IRNA in English 1627 GMT 13 May 93

["What Is the Islamic World Waiting for?"—IRNA headline]

[Text] Athens, May 13, IRNA—Even the most apathetic observer seems to have realized that the West will not take any military action in Bosnia-Herzegovina (B-H) to stop the massacare of the Muslims.

U.S. President Bill Clinton's huffing and puffing threats of air- bombings against Serbian targets have been replaced by procrastination-tactics.

Leaders in London, Paris and Washington first said one should wait for the outcome of the Athens peace conference held two weeks ago before launching any military action. In another manipulation of public opinion the decision on military action was postponed till the voting by the so-called Bosnian Serb parliament which rejected the Vance-Owen peace plan last week.

Now the West is saying one should await the outcome of the illegal referendum scheduled to be held on Saturday-Sunday in territories in B-H occupied by the Serbs .

The hypocrisy of the West knows no limit. Western media and politicians only months ago were branding Slobodan Milosevic and Radovan Karadzic as "Hitler" "butcher of Belgrade" and "war criminals."

Today they are being invited to peace conferences and referred to as "statemen" and "presidents."

In another puzzling move Clinton said he wants to send troops to the Republic of Macedonia to support peacekeeping troops there so as to avoid a bigger flare-up of the Balkan war.

The sufferings of the Bosnian Muslims have dragged on for much too long, and patience has lost its virtue in the face of those who stand for inaction.

The Bosnian Muslims accepted the Vance-Owen peace plan, have honoured their commitmments, shown great self-restraint and courageous resolve in facing Serbian barbarism.

In return they have been slaughtered and tortured, their homes razed to the ground, their women abducted and children killed.

There is nothing that the West will do to redress the situation.

NEW YORK TIMES columnist Anthonoy Lewis called George Bush a "gutless wimp" for not stopping the killings in B-H.

When pointed that Bush send half-a-million troops to liberate Kuwait from Iraqi occupation, Lewis replied, "yes, he did because of oil, the famous three letter word."

"Any wimp, you see, can go to war for some vital national interests. Real men go to war for reasons of right," commented Charles Krauthammer writing in the U.S. TIME weekly.

In Bosnia today there is need of men to fight for them but they need weapons to defend themselves.

If the Islamic world fails to take decisive action now, many other Bosnian tragedies would be repeated.

Pakistan

Released European Diplomats Arrive in Quetta

BK1405073093 Hong Kong AFP in English 0723 GMT 14 May 93

[Text] Quetta, Pakistan, May 14 (AFP)—Three European diplomats, released after three weeks of captivity in neighbouring Afghanistan, arrived here Friday in good health, a senior administration official here said.

Jack Dodds of Britain, Stephen Elhert of Germany and Gert Piening of the Netherlands were kidnapped on April 23 after entering Afghanistan for an unexplained trip.

"They are in good health... they are fresh," Ashraf Nasir, commissioner of Quetta, capital of southwestern Baluchistan Province, told AFP by telephone.

Two letters to their embassies that were smuggled out during their captivity said they had been held in chains and faced food and water shortages during the early days of their detention.

The trio, drug liaison officers in their respective embassies in Islamabad, were driven Friday from the border town of Chaman 130 kilometers (80 miles) north of here, under heavy escort after their Afghan captors handed them to the authorities there late Thursday.

The diplomats were being lodged in the local official rest house, but the authorities did not allow reporters to see them. After some rest they were expected to talk to the press later, Nasir said.

Diplomatic sources had said the three were kidnapped by a guerrilla commander Mohammed Nabi Nurzai of Afghan Prime Minister- designate Golboddin Hekmatyar's radical Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party] faction to obtain release of two fellow-tribesmen arrested on April 10 by Pakistani authorities on charges of [sentence incomplete as received].

Pakistan had indicated a willingness for the swap but Afghan consul Haji Abdul Khaliq told reporters here two days after the incident that the European drug officers had been detained on charges of trespassing without legal travel documents. This delayed direct negotiations, sources here said.

An official statement here said the three were released "unconditionally" late Thursday along with their Pakistani companion Sardar Saadat Ali Hazara.

The Afghans who were holding them in a border town of Spin Boldak handed them over to the Pakistani authorities at Chaman on the Pakistani side of the border, it said.

Nasir refused to confirm if the release deal involved any ransom payment or swap of detainees.

Sources here said their ordeal came to an end after the security forces increased pressure on the abductors by arresting 10 members of the Nurzai tribe and warning of an imminent raid on their hideout.

The diplomats are expected to be flown to Karachi late Friday.

Foreign Minister, Iran's Velayati Hold Talks

BK1405030493 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 14 May 93

[Text] Iranian Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati, who led his country's delegation at the meeting of the Nonaligned Movement ministerial committee for economic cooperation in Bali, arrived in Karachi last night on his way back home. He was received at the airport by Foreign Minister Sharifuddin Pirzada. Later, both the foreign ministers exchanged views on matters of bilateral interest. The Iranian foreign minister will leave for Tehran today.

Minister on Drug Traffickers, Extradition

BK1305112393 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 13 May 93 p 14

[Text] Islamabad. May 12—Pakistan has made it clear to the United States that it would not arrest or extradite without hard evidence any of its citizens who was on the [words indistinct]

Sardar Assef Ahmad Ali, Federal Minister for Narcotics told newsmen here on Tuesday that Robin Raphel, Assistant Secretary- designate of the US State Department, met him last week along with John C. Monjo, the US Ambassador to Pakistan to discuss issues relating to Narcotics. He said the US had however not provided to Pakistan any new list of drug traffickers.

Sardar Assef said the Americans had asked for legal action against certain people, who according to them, were involved in drug traffickfing. They, he added, had also requested for extradition of a few Pakistanis who belonged to the Punjab and the NWFP [North-West Frontier Province].

Sardar Assef said Pakistan had informed the United States that being an independent democratic country, where the basic rights of the citizens were protected, the government of Pakistan could not proceed against any of its citizen without a solid evidence.

He said once an evidence was provided against the drug barons, the government would not spare any one. The US list, he said contained the names of a number of important political personalities, including former legislators. Some of them belonged to the Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz [words indistinct])

To a question, the minister said due to certain lacunae in the law and administrative weaknesses, effective control on the drug trafficking was not possible.

He told newsmen that the government was considering to make a piece of legislation, under which every citizen would be bound to file an annual declaration about his wealth. This, he said, would help in indentifying the black money, pouring into our society through drug business.

"I will meet Sardar Farooq Ahmad Leghari, Federal Finance Minister to discuss with him the proposed law," he added.

Sardar Assef said the existing revenue system also required to be changed, which provided cover to the people committing crimes related to this sector.

To a query, he said he had come to know that former Prime Minister Mian Nawaz Sharif had planned to contest the National Assembly elections from a Kasur constituency against him. "In case Mian Sahib comes to Kasur, I will contest against him in Lahore.

Visit of U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Viewed

BK1405092293 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1600 GMT 13 May 93

[Commentary by A.B.S. Jafri]

[Text] The arrival in Islamabad tomorrow of the United States assistant secretary of state, John Milott, for two days of talks with Pakistani leaders is an event of unusual significance. After more than well over 40 years of the most friendly and close all around cooperation and partnership, Pakistan's relationship with the United States has, of late, been clouded with a variety of misunderstandings and strains. There is a certain (?vague) feeling in Islamabad that the worst may be behind us. This could also be a piece of sheer optimism. The one factor which provides a measure of support to the hope that we might be turning the corner is the latest report from the U.S. Department of State to the Congress in which the Clinton Administration has laid emphasis on what is described as even-handedness in Washington's handling of the South Asian nations, particularly Pakistan and India.

Observers seem to be of the view that after the withdrawal of the Soviet military presence from Afghanistan and the end of cold war following the collapse of the Soviet Union, the Bush administration then showed tilt toward India. The unilateral application of the act of the Pressler Amendment to Pakistan appears to confirm the tilt toward India. The amendment's application to Pakistan not only resulted in cutting all U.S. financial assistance to Pakistan, but also withdrawal of many other favors which this country had come to expect as part the intimate friendship which had existed between the United States and Pakistan.

It is noted with much more relief in Islamabad that the author of the new doctrine of even-handedness in South Asia is Mr. Milott himself. And Mr. Milott is directly in charge of the implementation of U.S. policies in South Asia. Pakistan does not ask anything more than genuine and scrupulously observed even-handedness by the United States in its relations with Pakistan and India. One of the more delicate issues casting shadow over Pakistan's equation with the United States is the U.S. perception of this country's nuclear ambitions and capabilities. Nuclear status of a nation can be correctly assessed only in the context of its security environment and concerns. The U.S. knows it better than any other power that a country has to enhance its nuclear capability all the time to beat and definitely to outstrip its rival. Pakistan's position is, if anything, even more flexible, and the United States must have considered it as reasonable when the Soviet threat was moving [sentence as heard]. Pakistan's neighbor to the east exploded nuclear device 18 years ago. Pakistan itself has not turned up in the fray. Washington's own intelligence sources are reported to be aware of India's nuclear capability as well as its resources of delivery system.

India's attitude toward Pakistan is not hidden to the United States, nor are the recent avalanche of Hindu fundamentalism in India in the wake of the demolition of an ancient mosque and racial massacre in Bombay in the wake of that horrendous outrage. Hundreds of Muslims have since died in the eastern states of India. Given this kind of atmosphere next door, even-handedness would demand support for Pakistan and pressure on India to pacify the environment in South Asia. The continued imposition of harsh constraints on Pakistan without a word of good advice to India leaves people in Pakistan with nothing but a feeling of injustice [word indistinct]. Pakistan has really very little to add to what it has already expressed by way of assurances to the United States on the nuclear issue which seems [words indistinct] in Washington. Pakistan will adhere to the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty unconditionally the moment India does.

Over the issue of terror, policy makers in the U.S. do not have to go very far. Just read one sentence from the report that the Human Rights Watch of Washington has presented to the Congress only 15 days ago. Just one sentence reads: By far, the greatest number of human rights violations and violations of the laws of war have been committed by the Indian Government forces in occupied Kashmir, particularly the federal paramilitary troops.

Imposition of Emergency Possible

BK1305142393 Lahore JANG in Urdu 3 May 93 pp 1,8

[By special correspondent]

[Text] Islamabad—According to responsible sources, President Ghulam Ishaq Khan has started consultations with constitutional and legal experts on the three demands by the All- Party Conference [APC] leaders. The president will soon apprise APC chief Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan of his final decision on these demands. President House is facing constitutional complications in this regard. The critical questions are how to justify the dissolution of provincial assemblies, how to involve the Armed Forces in the functioning of the independent and autonomous body of the Election Commission, and how to appoint a new chief election commissioner before the tenure of the existing chief election commissioner expires? The president does not like to take any extra-constitutoinal step. The president's aides and constitutional experts are reviewing the outcome of talks with leaders of the People's Democratic Alliance and the National Democratic Alliance.

Responsible sources say that a proposal to impose an emergency in the country has also been submitted to the president. Important circles in the federal capital have actively started considering the proposal for imposing the emergency under Article 232 of the Constitution. The sources say that the possibility of an imposition of emergency any time before the elections for a period of four months cannot be ruled out. They say that the situation in the four provinces as narrated by the national leaders to the president fully conforms to the constitutional conditions for the imposition of an emergency.

The national leadership's demand for holding general elections under the supervision of the Army cannot be accepted, even partially, until the jurisdiction of the federal government is extended to the provinces under the relevant articles of the Constitution. And this is not possible without imposing an emergency in the country. Referring to Article 232 (8) of the Constitution, the sources said that in the event of the National Assembly being dissolved, a declaration of an emergency will remain valid for four months. And if for any reason, general elections are not held before the expiry of this period, then the Senate will have to pass a resolution within these four months to extend the emergency further. The sources said that petitions have been filed in the court against the dissolution of the assembly and important steps are expected to be taken from now until the election schedule is announced.

Mazari on Nuclear Program, Elections

BK1305111793 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 13 May 93 p 1

[Text] Sukkur—Caretaker Prime Minister Mr Balakh Sher Mazari said here on Wednesday [12 May] Pakistan's nuclear programme was for peaceful purposes and added that we would not abandon it under any pressure, including American.

He said there is no dispute between him and Nawaz Sharif. However, conciliation could be arrived at provided he [words indistinct] powers of the President, he said. He was talking to newsmen at the Sukkur airport on Wednesday morning, en route in Ghouspor from Islamabad.

He said he was trying his level best to conduct fair, free and peaceful elections on July 14.

Replying to a question, he said the chief election commissioner could seek the cooperation of the Army for election work. However, no soldiers would discharge the duties of presiding officer, he said.

Mazari said the Army was being called to supervise the forthcoming national ejectios. Mazari said deployment of Army for the conduct of the elections was within the provision of the Constitution and the Election Commission was authorised to induct army personnel for holding fair, impartial and free elections.

To a question regarding the expanded federal cabinet, he said "it is our desire that all the political forces in the country cooperate with us to pass the interim period successfully, and in this cnnection our doors are open for all."

Regarding a question about the demand of Ms Benazir Bhutto to dissolve provincial assemblies, Mazari said it was her personal opinion. However, the PPP [Pakistan People's Party] was playing an important role in the caretaker cabinet, he added.

Regarding [words indistinct] he said the possibility of a joint strategy of all the political parties including those in the caretaker government regarding the forthcoming general election could not he ruled out.

He said according to US President Bill Clinton, the Indo-Pak issues could only be settled provided their political situation improves. Mazari said his (Bill Clinton's) statement was nearer the truth. The Indo-Pak relations could improve only when India honoured UN-resolutions regarding Kashmir, he said.

Responding to another question he said the issue of the repatriation of stranded Pakistanis in Bangladesh would be resolved by the future elected government.

Agencies add: Mazari said his government has not filed any reference against any member of the former government and the process of accountability would be initiated by the next government.

Mazari said he would contest the elections from the platform of the Pakistan Muslim League [PML]. When asked which PML faction he would select for the purpose, he said by the time of elections, all factions would hopefully unite.

Defending the NA [National Assembly] dissolution, Mazari said it was a part of democratic process and the step was not against the constitution.

Mr. Mazari also said there was no pressure on Pakistan regarding its nuclear programme. Neither there was any US pressure in this connection, he said.

Secretary of Narcotics Control Board Appointed

BK1305105993 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 13 May 93 p 11

[Text] Rawalpindi, May 12—Mohammad Anwar Malik, Chairman of Pakistan Narcotics Control Board (PNCB) has been elevated to Secretary Pakistan Narcotics Control Division with immediate effect.

Mohammad Anwar Malik before performing present duties was holding post of Inspector General Police Islamabad and Sindh. He has 35 years of law enforcing experience in police and related departments.

Malik Nazir Ahmed, who was Secretary Pakistan Narcotics Division, has been posted as Director Intelligence Bureau.